Art by
Kouji Ogata
Story by
Kouhei Kadono
ブギーポップは笑わない
1
Boogiepop
doesn't laugh

Who am I? My name is Boogiepop...

There is an urban legend that tells of a *shinigami* that can release people from the pain they are suffering. This "Angel of Death" has a name--Boogiepop. And the legends are true. Boogiepop is real.

When a rash of disappearances involving female students breaks out at Shinyo Academy, the police and faculty assume they just have a bunch of runaways on their hands. Yet some students know better. Something mysterious and foul is afoot. Is it Boogiepop or something even more sinister...?

Uncover the mysteries of Shinyo Academy and piece together the true order of disturbing events in the first volume of this unforgettable prelude to the hit anime series *Boogiepop Phantom*!

FEATURING ALL NEW SCENES NOT FOUND IN THE BOOGIEPOP AND OTHERS NOVEL!

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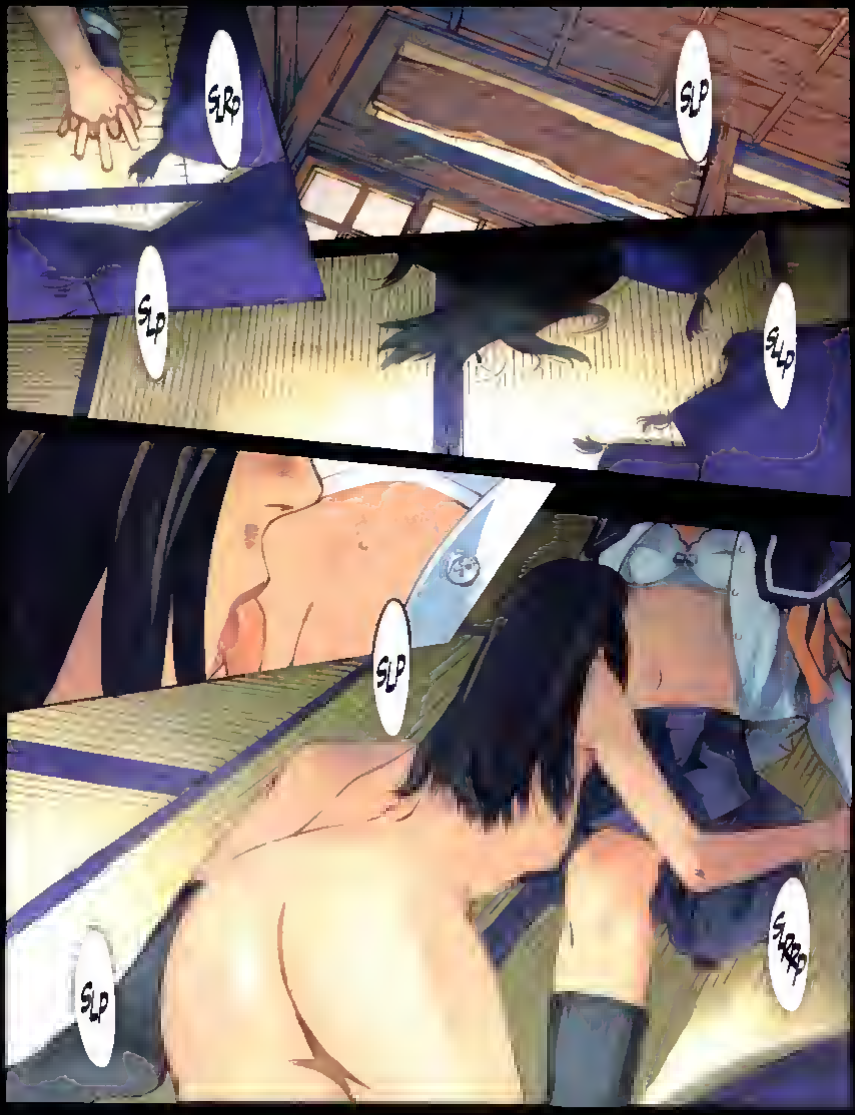
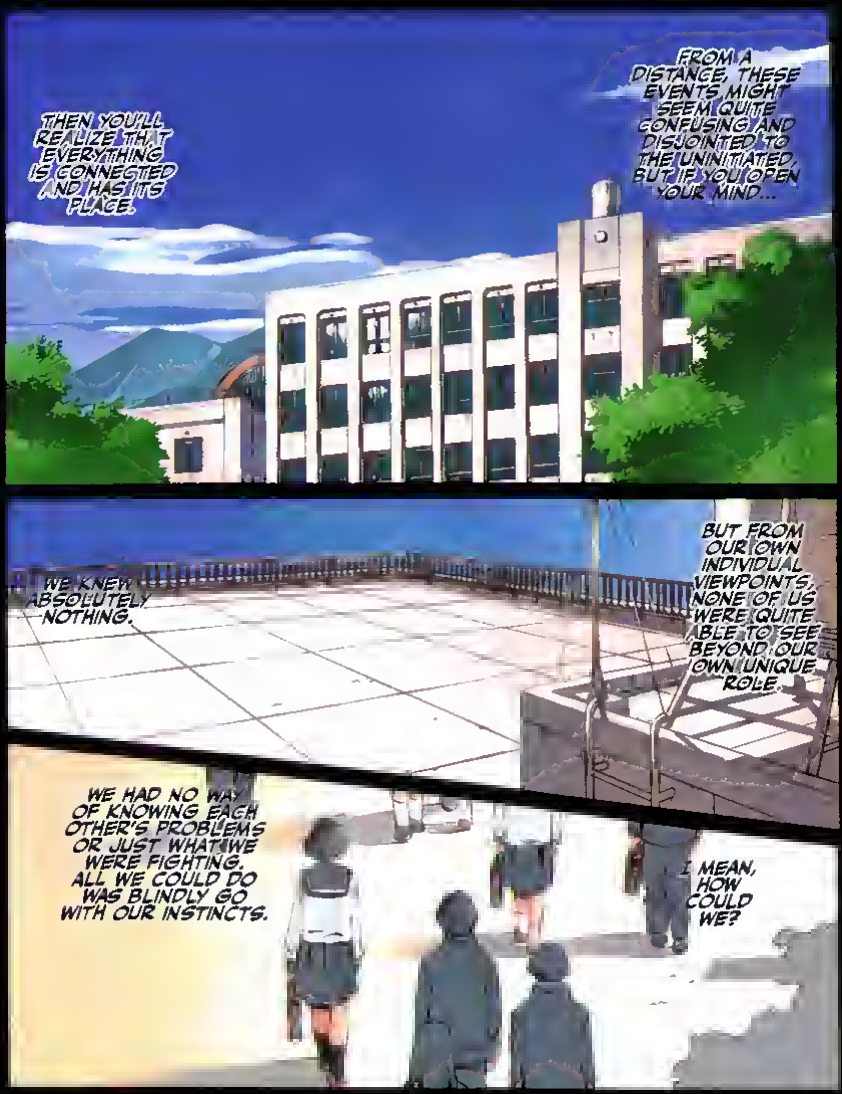

SLRP
SLP
SLP
SLLP
SLP
SLP
SLRRP

ギシ…
CREAK
!

YOU CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO LIVE.
ONCE YOU'VE SEEN ME...
YOU SAW ME.

AH
HISSU!


FROM A DISTANCE, THESE EVENTS MIGHT SEEM QUITE CONFUSING AND DISJOINTED TO THE UNINITIATED, BUT IF YOU OPEN YOUR MIND...
THEN YOU'LL REALIZE THAT EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED AND HAS ITS PLACE.
BUT FROM OUR OWN INDIVIDUAL VIEWPOINTS, NONE OF US WERE QUITE ABLE TO SEE BEYOND OUR OWN UNIQUE ROLE.
WE KNEW ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.
I MEAN, HOW COULD WE?
WE HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING EACH OTHER'S PROBLEMS OR JUST WHAT WE WERE FIGHTING. ALL WE COULD DO WAS BLINDLY GO WITH OUR INSTINCTS.

THE MAN WHO CAME FROM THE SKY... THE WOMAN MADE FROM HIS DESIGN... THAT STRANGE, CLOAKED FIGURE...
ALL THOSE STRANGE AND TWISTED EVENTS THEY BROUGHT ABOUT MUST'VE BEGUN AROUND THE SAME TIME...
RIGHT AS I, NIITOKI KEI WAS HAVING MY HEART BROKEN

Boogiepop doesn't Laugh

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第1話
Chapter One

HE'S NO LONGER AROUND, BUT I'M NOT SURE IF I SHOULD BE RELIEVED KNOWING THAT OR NOT.
THE STORY OF BOOGIEPOP IS ONE THAT WEIGHS HEAVILY UPON ME, BUT IT'S ONE THAT I STILL HAVE A LOT OF MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT.
BUT IT WASN'T ANYONE ELSE'S PROBLEM NOW WAS IT?
THAT SORT OF THING IS ONLY FUN IF THEY'RE ON TV IF YOU'RE STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO ONE, IT TENDS TO SPELL NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.
HE WAS... UNUSUAL TO SAY THE LEAST.
THE WEIRDEST THING ABOUT IT ALL WAS THAT I NEVER ONCE SAW HIM SMILE.
HE JUST ALWAYS STOOD THERE LOOKING GRIM.
AFTER ALL, HE WAS A TRANSFORMING SUPER-HERO.

TAKEDA-KUN...
THIS WORLD IS FULL OF FLAWS.
YEAH, AND HE ALWAYS WOULD SAY DEPRESSING STUFF LIKE THAT.
AND WITH THE EXACT SAME PRETTY FACE THAT ALWAYS MADE MY HEAD REEL.
BUT BOOGIEPOP IS GONE NOW.
AND I'LL NEVER KNOW IF EVERY-THING HE TOLD ME...
...WAS ALL JUST A LIE, OR NOT.

OCT. 24TH
I WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET MIYASHITA AT ELEVEN, BUT IT WAS ALREADY PAST THREE.
WHEN YOUR GIRLFRIEND IS LATE, YOUR MIND TENDS TO WANDER.
YOU START THINKING, 'HAVE I BEEN DUMPED?' AND THEN YOU GO GRASPING TO RECALL THE WARNING SIGNS.

BUT I WAITED.
IT WAS PUSHING FIVE, BUT I JUST COULDN'T LET THINGS GO.
SEEING ALL THOSE HAPPY COUPLES ALL DAY HAD ME FEELING LIKE THE WORLD HAD CAST ME ASIDE.

IT'S REALLY NO WONDER I FELT LEFT OUT.
TO TOP IT ALL OFF, I WAS THE ONLY PERSON IN MY CLASS NOT EVEN THINKING ABOUT GOING TO COLLEGE.
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
?
SIGH

YEESH, GUYS! LIKE THIS ARE SHOWING UP IN OUR TOWN, TOO?
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
THUMP
ENHHH...

EWWHHH..
WHAT THE HELL?
EWW!
UNNHH..
UNNGHH..
PATTY

お－HAAHHH!
whisper whisper
GLARE

DO YOU PEOPLE THINK TO DO *NOTHING* WHEN YOU SEE A *FELLOW* HUMAN *CRYING*?!
IS *THIS* WHAT THE ADVANCEMENT OF *CIVILIZATION* HAS LEAD TO?! IT'S SIMPLY *APPALLING*!
URBAN LIFE SHOULD *NEVER* WEED OUT THE WEAK AND THEN *GAWK* AT THEM!
NOW GO!

ALL RIGHT, YOU... UP!
OKAY, PEOPLE, COMING THROUGH!
OH YEAH?
YOU A FRIEND OF HIS OR SOMETHIN'?
STOP.
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SO VIOLENT.
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT HE'S AFRAID?

SWISH
SHOVE
JUST A MERE PASSERBY
BUT THERE WAS NO NEED TO TWIST HIS ARM LIKE THAT
JUST MOVE ALONG!
THUUD
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU RESORT TO VIOLENCE

SWAY
IT'S YOUR JOB TO SAVE PEOPLE WHO ARE IN TROUBLE. NOW DO IT!
TRY PERFORMING YOUR DUTY BEFORE YOU ACCUSE ME OF INTERFERING WITH IT
AND THAT'S WHAT I CALL INTERFERING WITH A POLICE OFFICER!
H-HEY, YOU! STOP RIGHT THERE!
ﾀﾀﾀﾀ
TAT TAT

AH!
WHICH WAY'D HE GO?!

ALL I COULD DO WAS STAND THERE, STUNNED.

IT WASN'T THE CLOAKED FIGURE'S STRANGE BEHAVIOR THAT GOT ME.
NO, IT WAS HAVING THAT PRETTY FACE OF HIS BURNED INTO MY RETINAS.
THERE WAS NO MISTAKING THOSE BIG, ALMOND SHAPED EYES...THEY BELONGED TO THE GIRL THAT I HAD BEEN WAITING FOR ALL DAY-- MIYASHITA TOUKA!
AND THUS, ENDED MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE MYSTERIOUS CLOAKED FIGURE--- BOOGIEPOP

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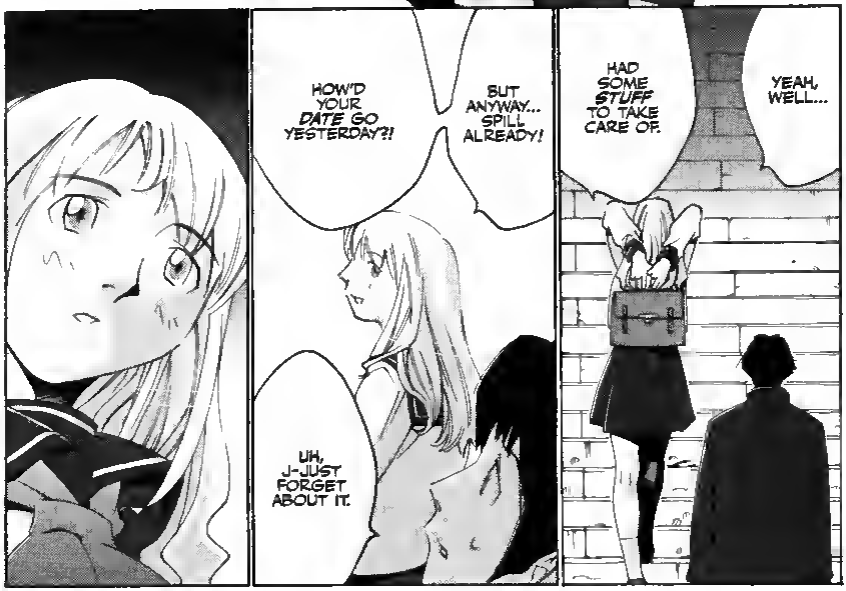
第2話
Chapter Two

YOOHOO, KEIJI!

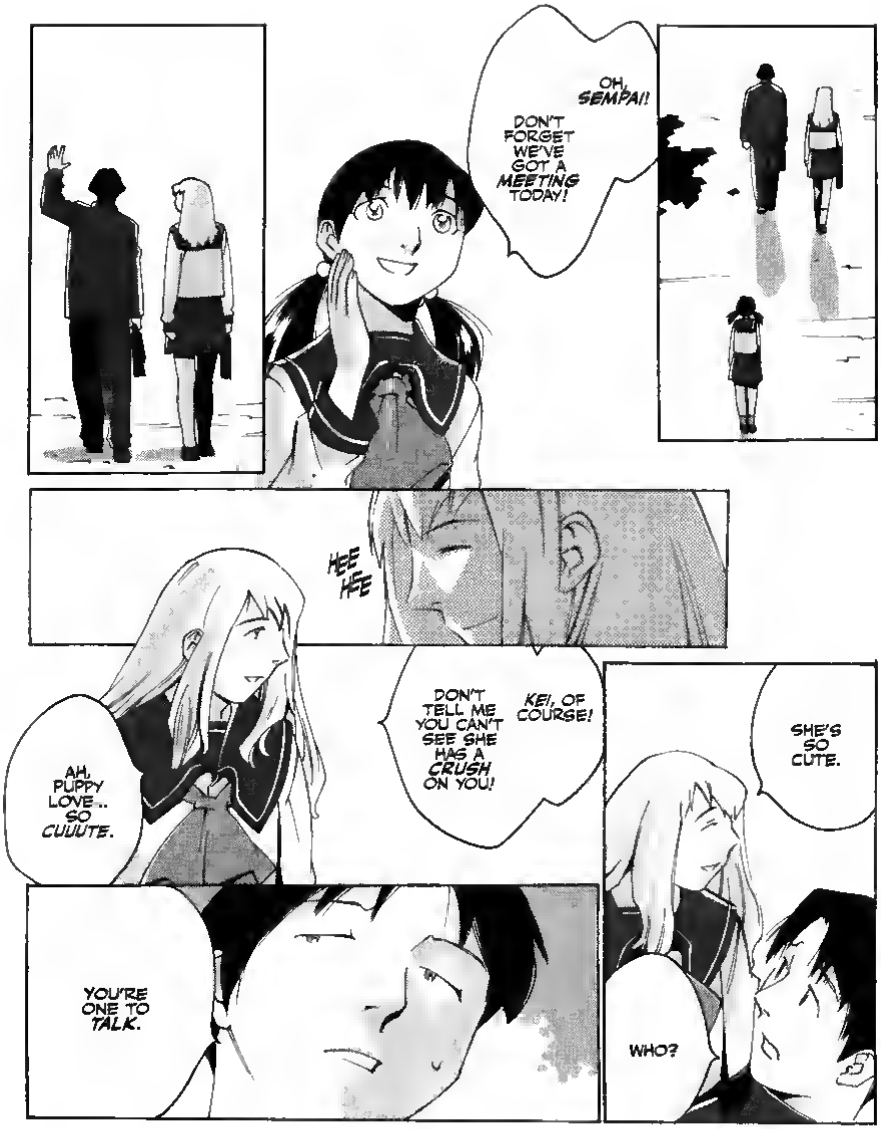
JEEZ, KAMIKISHIRO, ISN'T THIS KINDA EARLY FOR YOU?
WHY'RE YOU ACTING SO GLOOMY?! IT'S SUCH A BEAUUUTIFUL MORNING!
NOW, NOW!
HI-WHAAP
WHAT HAPPENED TO MAKING YOUR USUAL LATE DRAMATIC ENTRANCE?
ouch.


HOW'D YOUR DATE GO YESTERDAY?!
BUT ANYWAY... SPILL ALREADY!
UH, J-JUST FORGET ABOUT IT.
HAD SOME STUFF TO TAKE CARE OF.
YEAH, WELL...

NOW YOU REALLY GOTTA SPILL! SO, WHAT? YOU TWO HAVE A FIGHT?
OH, NO, YOU DIDN'T!
WHATEVER.
UH, WHA? HEY! THAT SOUNDS SERIOUS!
A
A FIGHT?
UH, NO IF ONLY WE HADVE.

SHIN'O ACADEMY IS A LOT LIKE OTHER SCHOOLS, BUT IT DOES HAVE ITS VICES.
EVERY TIME YOU COME AND GO, YOU HAVE TO SWIPE YOUR ID CARD THROUGH A GATE CHECKER YOU KNOW, LIKE THE KIND AT A TRAIN STATION?
SUPPOSEDLY IT HELPS THE STAFF KEEP TABS ON ATTENDANCE NUMBERS SINCE THE STUDENT POPULATION KEEPS DECLINING.
BUT IN ACTUAL PRACTICE, IT DOESN'T REALLY CHANGE MUCH OF ANYTHING.
OH, TAKEDA-SEMPAI, YOU'RE HERE EARLY.
D-DITTO.
MORNIN', KEI!

I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY, HONEST! BUT EVEN IF IT WERE TRUE, MY LIPS ARE SEALED.
THAT'S ACTUALLY SCARY COMING FROM YOU, MS. DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT.
MY, MY... ARE YOU TWO TOGETHER NOW?
SOUNDS EXPENSIVE.
TRYING TO EARN A FAVOR, EH?
DEEP DOWN SHE MEANT IT, BUT IF SHE EVER FOUND OUT KAMIKISHIRO HAD BOTH A FIRST AND SECOND YEAR STUDENT IN HER SADDLE, SHE'D PROBABLY BLOW A GASKET
OH... IT IS.


OH, SEMPAI!
DON'T FORGET WE'VE GOT A MEETING TODAY!
HEE HEE
KEI, OF COURSE!
DON'T TELL ME YOU CAN'T SEE SHE HAS A CRUSH ON YOU!
AH, PUPPY LOVE.. SO CUUUTE.
SHE'S SO CUTE.
WHO?
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE ON THE *RAG* TODAY. *GOTCHA!*
OHHHH. .
AH HA HA!
NO, *TOUKA* JUST *STOOD* ME UP AND *QUIT* CALLING HER "FUJI-CHAN"!
SO WHAT WAS IT? *FUJI-CHAN* DUMP YOU?
BUT YOU STAND PEOPLE UP ALL THE TIME!
GRIN
?
SO IF...
WHAT ARE GIRLS *THINKING* WHEN THEY *DO* THAT? IT SURE *AIN'T* ABOUT THEIR BOYFRIEND

THAT'S NOT AN EASY THING TO ANSWER.
HMM... IT ALL DEPENDS, REALLY. IT'S NOT ALWAYS BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANNA SEE YOU. STUFF JUST, YOU KNOW, COMES UP.
YEAH, BUT...
WHAT IF THEY STAND YOU UP SO THEY CAN GO DRESS UP LIKE A GUY?
Hunh?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

UH, N-NEVER MIND MUST'VE JUST BEEN SEEING THINGS.
HEY, JOKES ASIDE, I KNOW YOU'VE GOT, *LIKE*, A LOT OF TIME ON YOUR HANDS...
SO YOU ***REALLY*** OUGHT TO, *YOU KNOW*, TAKE LOVE A *LITTLE* MORE SERIOUSLY, YA HEAR?
WHAT'S *THAT* SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

Life is brief,
young maiden,
fall in love,
before the cherry
bloom fades from
your lips.
before the tides
of passion cool
within your hips,
for those of you
who know no
tomorrow.

GEE, YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD. YOU IN LOVE AGAIN?
KINDA.
Tee hee hee.
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
HOW MANY IS THIS NOW?
FIFTY?!
BEFORE WE HIT THE HALLS, WE BOTH DRIFTED INTO A SLIGHTLY MORE STAND-OFFISH ATTITUDE.
OBVIOUSLY, WE WEREN'T GOING OUT, BUT IT WAS NEVER A GOOD IDEA TO START ANY RUMORS.

2-C
HUNH. NOBODY HERE YET...
FROM THERE, I SLOWLY LET MY FEET DRAG ME TOWARDS TOUKA'S GLASS.

DO YOU PEOPLE THINK TO DO NOTHING WHEN YOU SEE A FELLOW HUMAN CRYING?!
JEEZ, WAS THAT REALLY TOUKA?
MAYBE IT WAS HER TWIN BROTHER...?
MM? TAKEDA-SEMPAI, WHY ARE YOU HERE?
NO, SHE'S NEVER MENTIONED HAVING ONE BEFORE.

MIYASHITA, I JUST..
?
WHAT?! SHE DOESN'T EVEN SEEM AT ALL BOTHERED THAT SHE STOOD ME UP!
IS... SOMETHING WRONG?

SURE!
UH, CAN YOU MEET ME BEHIND THE SCHOOL TODAY?
YOU KNOW HOW HORRIBLE IT IS BEING SURROUNDED AND CHOKED BY SMOKE? THAT'S HOW I FELT AS I WENT TO CLASS.
IT'S LIKE NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.

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I EXPECT THAT EACH ONE OF YOU HAS *NOTICED* THIS BY NOW...
Discipline Committee Meeting
In Progress
Chapter Three
第3話
BUT THIS YEAR, *DISCIPLINE* HAS BECOME RATHER *SLACK*.
THERE ARE NOW *FOUR* GIRLS--YES, STUDENTS *HERE*--WHO *APPEAR* TO HAVE RUN AWAY.

IF ANY OF YOU HAPPEN TO HEAR OR KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THESE "MISSING" GIRLS, THEN I EXPECT YOU'LL COME DIRECTLY TO ME AND REPORT IT.
TKK TKK
OH YEAH, THE INFAMOUS KIRIMA NAGI WILL BE BACK THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
MAKE SURE YOU ALL KEEP AN EYE ON HER, GOT IT?
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THAT HOOLIGAN'S PLOTTING IN THE SHADOWS
GIRL'S ON DRUGS, IF YOU ASK ME.

Attention, 2-C student Miyashita Touka... Attention, 2-C student Miyashita Touka.
Please return to the infirmary at once. Again, 2-C student Miyashita Touka--
キーンコーン
BIIIING
カーンコーン
BOOOONG
MM?
SOME-THING THE MATTER?
ガラー
SLIIIIDE

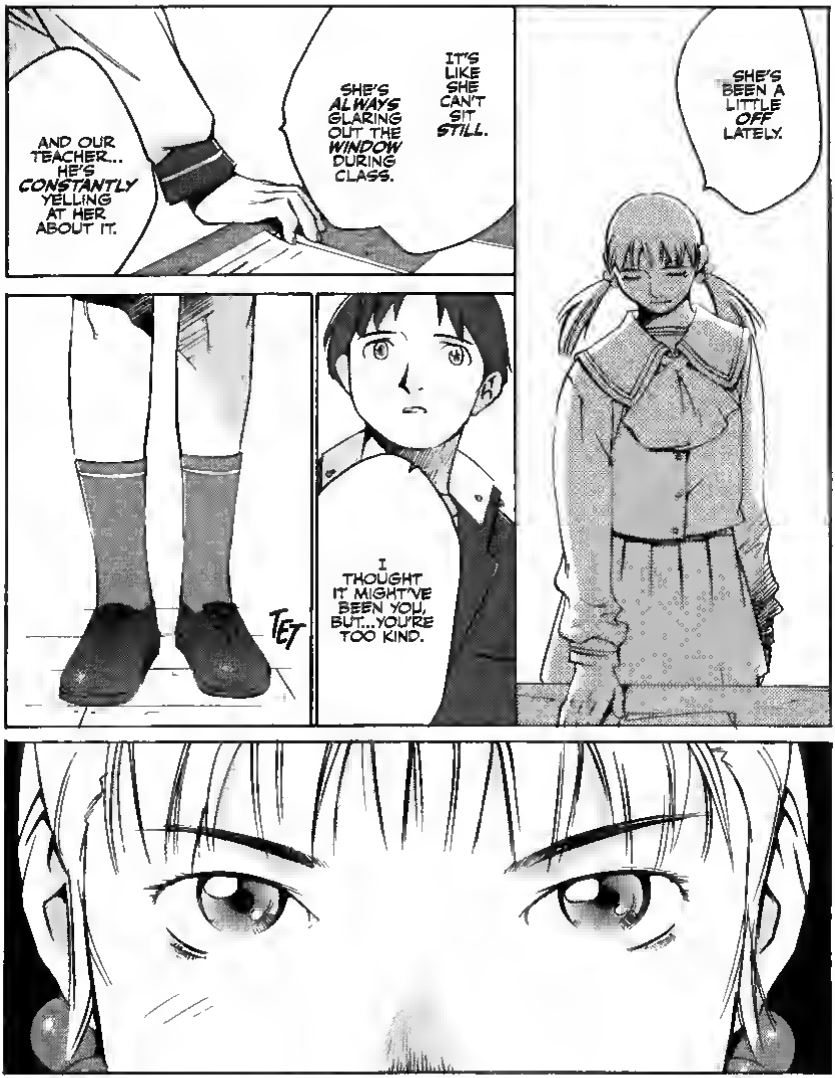
FINE.
THIRD YEAR, BACK TO CLASS.
ARE YOU OKAY, SEMPAI? YOU LOOK KINDA PALE.
OH, UH... I...I FEEL A LITTLE DIZZY.
TH-THANKS
ガク…

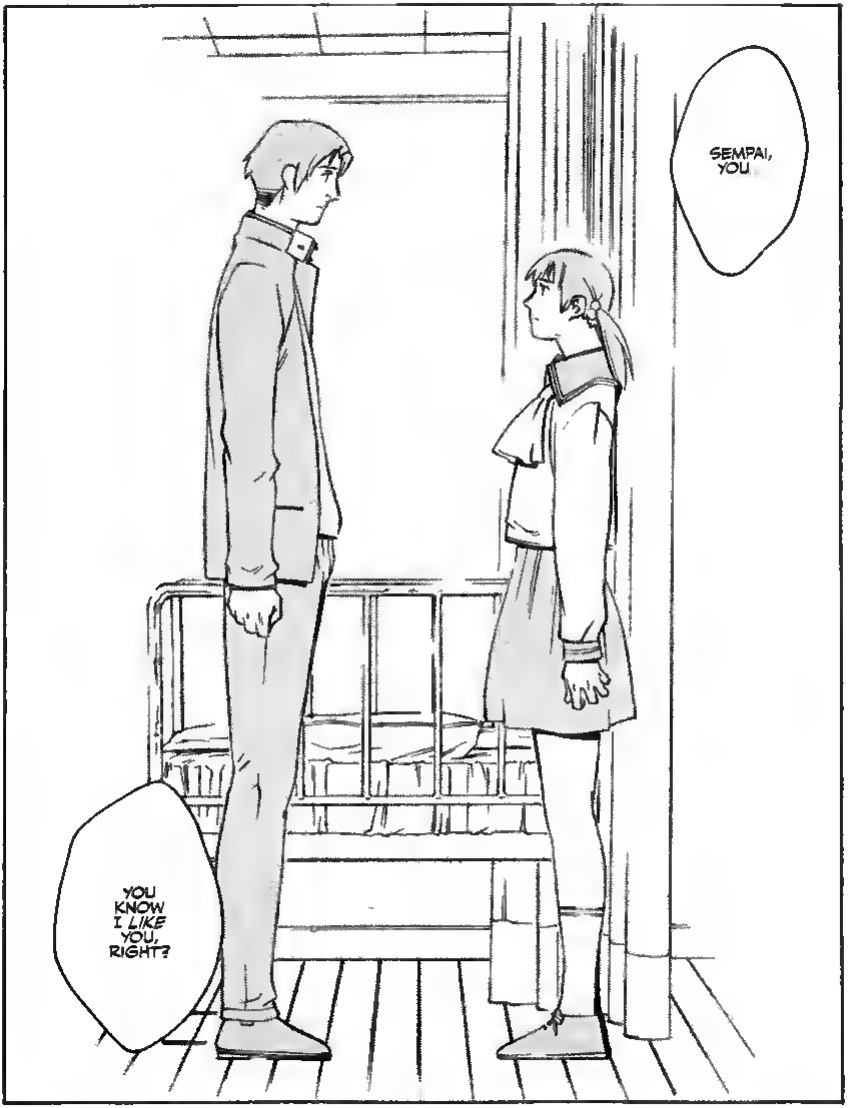
EGH... JUST HURRY BACK.
SENSEI...
MIND IF I TAKE HIM TO THE INFIRMARY?

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO TAG ALONG
I KNOW... -SIGH-

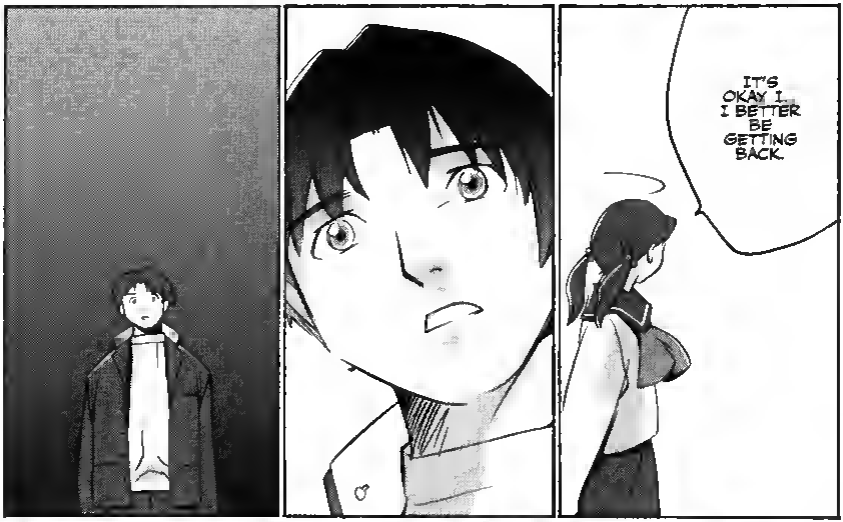
ガラ
KOSH
SO..
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HER?

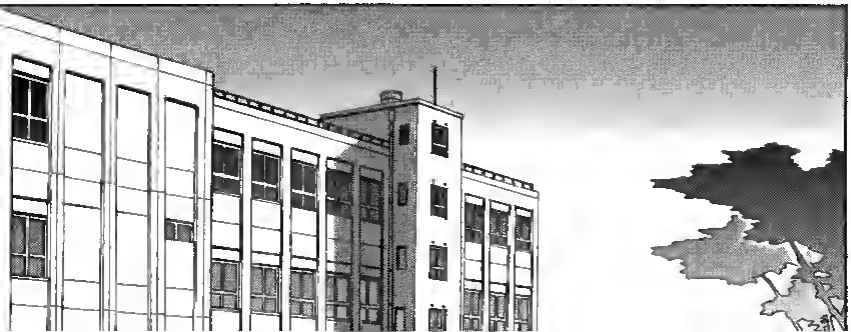
Y-YEAH
I THOUGHT SO.
WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS AND EVEN I CAN SEE THAT...
HMM?


AND OUR TEACHER... HE'S CONSTANTLY YELLING AT HER ABOUT IT.
SHE'S ALWAYS GLARING OUT THE WINDOW DURING CLASS.
IT'S LIKE SHE CAN'T SIT STILL.
SHE'S BEEN A LITTLE OFF LATELY.
TET
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT'VE BEEN YOU, BUT...YOU'RE TOO KIND.


SEMPAI, YOU...
YOU KNOW I LIKE YOU, RIGHT?

BUT I... I KNOW YOU LIKE *HER* MORE THAN ME.


IT'S OKAY I... I BETTER BE GETTING BACK.



NEEDLESS TO SAY, THAT WHOLE CONVER-SATION LEFT ME PRETTY MUCH OUT OF IT.
THUP
I STRUGGLED TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE DAY JUST SO I COULD MEET TOUKA AT OUR USUAL PLACE. THEN, I FOUND OUT SHE WASN'T THERE.

FWFF
THAT HAT...!
HEY! W-WAIT!

カン
CLONG
カン
CLONG
カン
CLONG
カン
CLONG
カン
CLONG
カン
CLONG
TRISH!!!
MIYASHITA!

YOU...
KNOW MIYASHITA TOUKA?
I SEE. WE MET YESTERDAY, DIDN'T WE?
I HAVE DONE YOU A *GREAT* WRONG AND FOR THAT I DO *APOLOGIZE* FOR IGNORING YOU.
WHAT THE *HELL* ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT?!
PERHAPS I SHOULD MAKE IT *CLEAR*...
THAT I AM *NOT* MIYASHITA TOUKA.

C-CURRENTLY?
CURRENTLY, I AM BOOGIEPOP.
SIMPLY PUT, MY SITUATION RESEMBLES THAT OF A SPLIT PERSONALITY
UNDERSTAND ME SO FAR?
NONE OF YOU HAVE NOTICED YET, BUT DANGER IS HOVERING OVER THIS SCHOOL... AND IT THREATENS ALL MANKIND
THAT IS WHY I HAVE EMERGED

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第4話
Chapter Four
BRRIIING BRRIIING
BRRIIING
THAT EVENING, I HAD TO KNOW THE TRUTH.
BUT TOUKA'S PARENTS ARE REALLY STRICT AND SHE COULDN'T CALL ME, SO I HAD TO BE CLEVER.
CHK
Miyashita speaking
HELLO. THIS IS TAKEDA FROM THE SHINYO ACADEMY DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE IS TOUKA IN?

THAT?
H-HAS TOUKA DONE SOMETHING...? BUT W-WE HAVEN'T SEEN THAT SINCE SHE STARTED HIGH SCHOOL...
O-OF COURSE! JUST A MOMENT!
I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO HER DIRECTLY IF POSSIBLE.
SHE MUST BE SPOOKED.
WEIRD, SHE'S BEING TOO POLITE TO ME.

Ah... hey!
It's Takeda.
YES?
Touka speaking
NOT REALLY.
NO.
TALK ABOUT BLUNT. HER MOM MUST BE REALLY HOVERING
OH. WELL, UH--
Yes?
I JUST WANTED TO ASK, DID YOU GO SOMEWHERE THIS SUNDAY?

YOU EVER HEARD OF BOOGIEPOP?
EH?
WHAT'S...
WHAT'S THAT?
UH...
IT'S NOT IMPORTANT. I JUST WANTED TO HEAR YOUR VOICE, IS ALL.
SORRY.
SEE YOU TOMORROW, KAY?
BEEP
LOOKS LIKE THAT BOOGIEPOP GUY WAS RIGHT.

SHE DOESN'T KNOW IF SOMETHING THREATENS TO ERODE HER FOOTHOLD OF IGNORANCE SHE INSTANTLY CEASES TO REMEMBER IT.
TO ERASE THE ANOMALY CAUSED BY NOT MEETING YOU YESTERDAY, SHE WILL HAVE DELETED ALL MEMORIES OF YOUR DATE FROM HER MIND
D-DELETED?
YOU MEAN SHE'S FORGOTTEN THAT WE WERE EVEN SUPPOSED TO MEET?

I IMAGINE SHE LOVES YOU *QUITE* DEEPLY
WHICH IS *EXACTLY* WHY SHE NEEDS TO FORGET SO THOROUGHLY
PRECISELY BUT THIS IS ASSUREDLY *NOT* BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY
?
HOW SO?
QUITE THE REVERSE ACTUALLY
SO THAT SHE DOESN'T FEEL *GUILTY*
SHE DOESN'T WANT TO EVEN *KNOW* THAT YOU'RE [redacted] HER.
WHAT EXACTLY *ARE* YOU?!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN *POSSESSING* HER?!

POSSESSING? CAN'T SAY I *LIKE* YOUR CHOICE OF WORDS. IT'S NOT LIKE I *CHOSE* TO APPEAR.
THEN WHY *DO* YOU?!
WOOSH
トニッ
!

BECAUSE DANGER IS UPON US.
DANGER ..?
I AM AUTOMATIC WHEN I DETECT ADVERSITY APPROACHING, I FLOAT UP OUT OF MIYASHITA TOUKA
THAT'S WHY I AM BOOGIEPOP-- PHANTASMAL, LIKE BUBBLES.

ADVERSITY? WHAT KIND OF..?
THERE IS A DEVIL NESTING IN THIS SCHOOL
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
IT'S HIDDEN AMONG YOU NOW. BUT I ASSURE YOU...IT POSES A VERY REAL THREAT.
IT HAS BARELY BEGUN TO STIR, BUT ONCE IT DOES, IT SHALL SPELL THE END OF THE WORLD.

THE REST OF THE TIME, I LIVE PEACEFULLY GAZING AT YOU WITH ARDOR AS MIYASHITA TOUKA.
I'M AWARE OF YOUR FEARS, WHICH IS WHY I NEVER APPEAR FOR LONG THIS IS ALSO AUTOMATIC
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU? AREN'T YOU JUST THE SAME?!
HEY! WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
MY TIME TODAY IS NEARLY AT AN END. THERE IS LITTLE NEED TO KEEP WATCH ONCE THE SCHOOL DAY IS OVER.
EVERY ONE HAS ALREADY GONE HOME. WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
SO, UH, THIS DANGEROUS THING YOU'VE BEEN GOING ON ABOUT IT'S ONE OF THE STUDENTS?

OH, YEAH?! WHY?!
IT'S FAR BETTER IF YOU DO NOT KNOW.
WHAT IS IT, EXACTLY?
MOST LIKELY.
I WOULD PREFER TO [redacted] MIYASHITA TOUKA'S LOVER OUT OF HARM'S WAY.
IF YOU KNOW MORE, SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN TO YOU.
BECAUSE IT IS TOO DANGEROUS.
IF IT'S THAT DANGEROUS, THEN I HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW! YOU DO REALIZE THAT BODY DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU, RIGHT?!

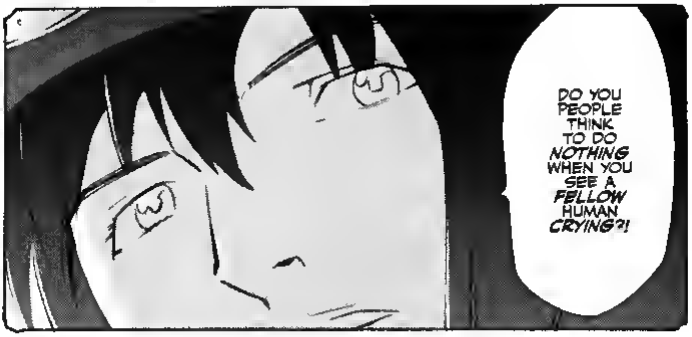
RIGHT.
ALL RIGHT, BUT YOU CANNOT TELL ANYONE ELSE.
SIGH...
CLEARLY, THIS IS ALL JUST SOME PARANOID DELUSION. I SHOULDN'T TAKE THIS GUY SERIOUSLY.
BUT HE'S RIGHT THERE IN FRONT OF ME. IT'S TOUKA... AND YET, IT'S NOT TOUKA AT THE SAME TIME!
IT'S A...
MAN-EATER.

THE SCHOOL? NO, THE WHOLE WORLD'S IN DANGER?
A SPLIT PERSONALITY?
WHUMP
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
AS FAR AS DELUSIONS GO, THIS TAKES THE CAKE. IT'S LIKE ONE OF THOSE CRAZY HIGH SCHOOL RPGS, BUT JUST TRIPPED OUT EVEN FARTHER ON DRUGS.

UGH, BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO AND DRAG TOUKA OFF TO SOME PSYCH WARD.
THE SCREAM INSIDE
Multiple Personality Disorder
KIRIMA SEIICHI
OH YEAH, I BOUGHT THAT BOOK...
"THIS DISEASE IS EXCEEDINGLY RARE--IF NOT ALMOST UNHEARD OF-- IN JAPAN" WAIT, HUH...?

AS FAR AS I COULD TELL, MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DISORDER TENDED TO ARISE WHEN SOMEONE IS UNABLE TO COPE WITH REALITY AND THEY SHIFT THOSE EMOTIONS ONTO A NEW PERSONA.
L·E·O·N
I TRIED TO SKIM THE BOOK FOR SOMETHING RELEVANT, BUT THE SENTENCES WERE FILLED WITH HEAD-SPINNINGLY DIFFICULT WORDS.
"Multiple personality disorder occurs when one of these possibilities, suppressed by societal pressures, declares independence and begins to fight to exist. Yet regardless of how diseased the result or how destructive it is to the host and those around it, the persona makes no distinction between good or evil."
Hope there's never a test on this
DID ANY OF THAT MAKE ANY SENSE...?

WAIT...IF BOOGIEPOP IS A NEW PERSONA, THEN WHAT SUPPRESSED HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE?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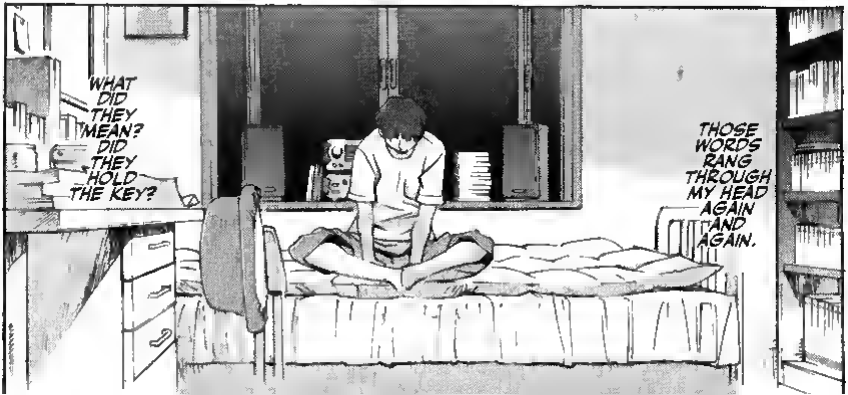
WHAT DID THEY MEAN? DID THEY HOLD THE KEY?
THOSE WORDS RANG THROUGH MY HEAD AGAIN AND AGAIN.

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第5話
Chapter Five

I NEEDED ANSWERS, SO I ENDED UP GOING TO SEE BOOGIEPOP AGAIN.
OCT. 26TH, AFTER SCHOOL
A SUPPRESSED *POSSIBILITY*? HMM... THAT'S NOT A BAD EXPLANATION, I SUPPOSE.
THAT *WRITER* HAS SOME *INTERESTING* THINGS TO SAY.

THEN WHAT EXACTLY *ARE* YOU?
BUT IN MY CASE, I AM *NOT* ONE OF MIYASHITA TOUKA'S OTHER POSSIBILITIES...NOR PERSONAS.
GOOD QUESTION.
I AM THIS WORLD'S...?
.....

I HAVE NO AUTONOMY HERE. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT MIYASHITA TOUKA MIGHT BE THINKING
SHE MAY WELL HAVE SOME POSSIBILITY... SOME HIDDEN DESIRE THAT PRODUCED ME. BUT THAT IS NOT MY CONCERN.
I HAVE NO DREAMS. I HAVE ONLY MY DUTY. I AM HERE ONLY TO CARRY OUT MY PURPOSE.
.....
TO SAVE MANKIND?
YES.

BUT WHY YOU?!
I DO NOT KNOW.
I WOULD LIKE TO...
DO YOU WISH TO "CURE" ME?
gulp
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOURSELF?

BUT WAS HIS PRESENCE REALLY HURTING ANYONE? DO I REALLY NEED TO DO ANY-THING?
OBVIOUSLY, PART OF ME WANTED TO SAY YES. I MEAN, TOUKA IS MY GIRLFRIEND!
NO...
I MEAN, I, UH... I DUNNO.
IF ONLY THERE WERE NO NEED FOR ME...
I ADMIT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF I DID NOT EXIST.
ABOUT THE ONLY THING IT ACTUALLY INTERFERES WITH IS OUR DATES.
NOT EASY FOR YOU, IS IT?

CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
SAY..
I SUPPOSE
I'M HARDLY EVER HERE, THOUGH.
WHAT'S THAT?
THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU...
YOU *SAID* SOMETHING TO THAT HOMELESS GUY. WHAT WAS IT?

NOTHING IMPORTANT.
BUT *HOW* DID YOU GET HIM TO STOP CRYING?
I MERELY GAVE HIM THE ENCOURAGEMENT THAT HE NEEDED
EVERY PERSON NEEDS *HELP* WHEN THEY'RE SUFFERING.
HE NEEDED *HELP*?
HOW DID YOU *KNOW*?

HE WAS CRYING.
YOU COULD TELL HE WAS SUFFERING...
JUST BY LOOKING AT HIM.
HEY, CUT US HUMANS SOME SLACK...
WE'RE NOT ALL THAT OBSERVANT.
sigh...
WAIT. BUT...?

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN.
HUH?
I THINK...
...I FINALLY I KNOW WHAT MIYASHITA TOUKA SEES IN YOU.
UH, YOU SAYING THAT STUFF STILL CREEPS ME OUT.
I MEAN, WHEN I SEE HER TOMORROW, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'LL DO.

DON'T WORRY. I AM ME... AND SHE IS HERSELF.
...BUT AT THE TIME, IT SEEMED LIKE HE WAS BEING SARCASTIC AND MORE THAN A LITTLE DIABOLICAL.
LATER, I WONDERED IF THAT EXPRESSION WAS SOME KIND OF STRAINED GRIN...

JOINING BOOGIEPOP ON THE ROOF AS HE "KEPT WATCH" SOON BECAME MY DAILY RITUAL.
OCT. 27TH, AFTER SCHOOL
YOU KNOW, I'M NOT REALLY PART OF MY CLASS ANYMORE.
YOU AREN'T TAKING EXAMS?
NOPE, AND NO COLLEGE, EITHER. MY DAD PULLED SOME STRINGS AND GOT ME A PART-TIME JOB AT A DESIGN FIRM.
ONCE SCHOOL'S OVER, THE OWNER WANTS ME FULL-TIME.

THAT'S GREAT. YOU'RE THE BOSS'S FAVORITE CRAFTSMAN, THEN.
I TOLD TOUKA WHEN I GOT THE JOB AND SHE SAID, "ARE YOU SURE? SOUNDS RISKY TO ME..."
BUT BOOGIEPOP WAS THE OPPOSITE. HE SEEMED GENUINELY IMPRESSED.
EXACTLY! A CRAFTSMAN. THAT'S ALL A DESIGNER IS, REALLY.
WE GET A PROJECT, LOOK FOR INSPIRATION, AND THEN TINKER AWAY!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE GOT BOTH FEET FIRMLY ON THE GROUND.

YEAH, I *REALLY* DO, BUT MIYASHITA THINKS IT'S *RISKY*.
SHE WOULD.
I DON'T KNOW HER ALL THAT WELL, BUT THERE ARE *FAR* MORE GIRLS WHO *SHUN* ROMANTIC MEN THAN THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE ATTRACTED TO THEM.
REALLY?
ME? *ROMANTIC*?!
I HAVE NO SUCH HOPES, BUT I *BELIEVE* HUMANS *NEED* SOME SORT OF DREAM.
AM I *WRONG*?

I DUNNO.
WHEN YOU HAVE NO *DREAMS*... WHEN YOU CAN'T *IMAGINE* A FUTURE, THAT MEANS *SOMETHING* IN THIS WORLD IS *FLAWED*.
UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS NOT I WHO SHALL *BATTLE* THAT FLAW...
...BUT RATHER *YOU* AND MIYASHITA TOUKA.

ALL THIS FROM A SELF-PROCLAIMED DEFENDER OF THE WORLD.
IF YOU SAW HIM IN A CROWD, YOU'D TAKE HIM FOR A CLOWN. BUT HIS WORDS CARRIED WEIGHT.
IT MAKES ME THINK THAT IF A SINGLE CLOWN COULD CHANGE THE WORLD...
THEN I WANT TO BE A CLOWN TOO.

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第6話
Chapter Six

ONE OF MIYAGHITA TOUKA'S *RELATIVES* HAD PASSED AWAY, AND I BELIEVE THAT'S WHEN SHE *FIRST* NOTICED HER PARENTS ON THE *VERGE* OF DIVORCE. HER UNCERTAIN *FEELINGS* AT THE TIME MAY HAVE PRODUCED A *STUBBORN* CREATURE LIKE ME.
ABOUT FIVE *YEARS* AGO, NEAR THE CREMATORY.
SAY...
WHEN DID YOU *FIRST* COME OUT?
I HAD A HUNCH ABOUT WHICH KILLER HE WAS TALKING ABOUT.
BUT I, MYSELF, WAS FAR TOO BUSY FIGHTING A KILLER *STALKING* THE STREETS TO REALLY PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO EVENTS OF THE HOME.
BUT IT MAKES SENSE THAT THIS DELUSION WOULD INCORPORATE SUCH A WELL-KNOWN STORY.
SOME SERIAL KILLER HAD MURDERED FIVE GIRLS, AND THEN HUNG HIMSELF JUST WHEN THE POLICE WERE ABOUT TO CATCH HIM. HOW COULD I NOT REMEMBER THAT? IT WAS ALL THE NEWS I TALKED ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO.

MIYASHITA'S MOTHER SOUNDED LIKE SHE KNEW ABOUT YOU.
SHE WAS HYSTERICAL CAUSED ME NO END OF TROUBLE.
MM, SHE'S SEEN ME A FEW TIMES. BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH, SHE ONCE CAUGHT ME CLIMBING OUT THE WINDOW.
MUST'VE BEEN SURPRISED
BUT WHEN SHE LOCKED ME IN THE HOUSE, I KNOCKED THE WOMAN OUT AND MADE MY ESCAPE
S-SERIOUSLY?
no wonder she freaked...
DON'T YOU SEE? DANGER WAS APPROACHING IT WAS MY DUTY.

HMM...
THIS SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING FROM THAT BOOK.
THE WHOLE FUSS DID HAVE ONE OUTCOME, IT CAUSED HER FATHER TO FEEL GUILTY AND STOP CONSIDERING DIVORCE.
BUT THAT STORY ISN'T IMPORTANT.
?
AFTER THAT INCIDENT, MIYASHITA TOUKA WAS DRAGGED OFF TO A PSYCHOLOGIST...
HER PARENTS HAD BECOME APATHETIC AND COLD, SO SHE WAS DESPERATELY TRYING TO BRIGHTEN THE GLOOMY ATMOSPHERE. UNFORTUNATELY, THE STRESS WAS TOO MUCH FOR HER, AND ITS EFFECTS STARTED TO MANIFEST EXTERNALLY.
NOT A MULTIPLE PERSONALITY CASE, BUT A MANIC-DEPRESSIVE GIRL. AT SCHOOL, SHE NEVER SPOKE TO ANYONE, BUT SHE WAS ALWAYS BRIGHT AND HAPPY AT HOME.
SHE WAS TREATED, HER FAMILY MADE AMENDS, AND HER HOUSE BECAME A MUCH MORE PEACEFUL PLACE. THIS SORT OF "PEACE MAKING" PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDER IS REFERRED TO AS "THE TRICKSTER," AND FOR SOME REASON, IT SOUNDED A LOT LIKE BOOGIEPOP TO ME.
HER BEHAVIOR GREW STRANGER AND STRANGER, UNTIL FINALLY SHE WAS TAKEN TO A DOCTOR AND THE PROBLEM WAS UNCOVERED.

MIYASHITA TOUKA MAY WELL SEE IT THAT WAY.
SO, THOUGHTS?
WHEN I EXPLAINED THIS TO HIM, HE JUST LOOKED AT ME WITH THAT STRANGE EXPRESSION OF HIS
YOU NEVER COME OUT AT HOME ANYMORE, RIGHT?
WHAT I DON'T GET IS, YOU'RE STILL HERE ISN'T THAT SITUATION OVER?
THEN... YOU'LL JUST DIS-APPEAR WHEN THIS "DANGER" IS OVER?
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT. I SIMPLY HAVE MY DUTY TO FULFILL.
THEN, WHY?
CORRECT

YES. THOUGH, I *WILL* BE A LITTLE SAD TO GO THIS TIME.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE *YOU* AGAIN.
NO.
OF COURSE, MIYASHITA TOUKA *WILL* BE HERE. I IMAGINE YOU PREFER HER.
.....
YOU...
YOU WON'T...?

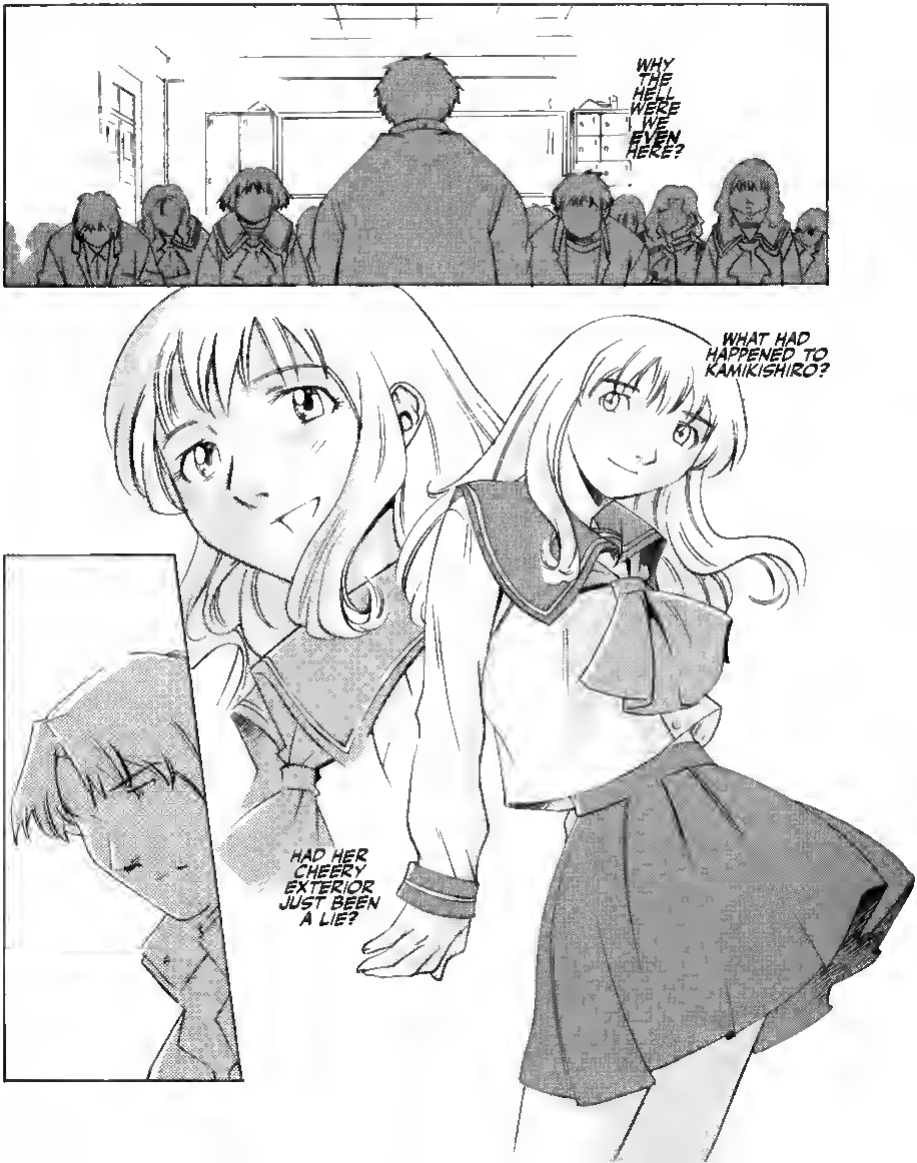
WHEST
WHEST
WHEST
IT'S IRONIC. I REMEMBER TRYING TO GET TOUKA TO WHISTLE ONCE AND SHE COULDN'T.
I COULD HEAR BOOGIEPOP WHISTLING.
THE TUNE WAS LOUD AND SOMBER AND LEFT ME WITH A SAD ACHE IN MY STOMACH
A SUPPRESSED POSSIBILITY...?
EVEN AS HER BOYFRIEND, I SUPPOSE I WAS ALSO SUPPRESSING SOME PART OF HER.

OCT. 29TH, NOON
YOU'RE KIDDING?
IT'S TRUE!
THE TEACHER TOLD US SHE HASN'T COME HOME.
BUT WHY? WHY WOULD SHE RUN AWAY?
I DUNNO THAT GIRL HARDLY EVER TALKED TO US.
PROBABLY THOUGHT HER PRETTY FACE WOULD GET HER BY IN TOKYO OR SOMETHIN'.
KAMIKISHIRO HAD VANISHED.
NO REASON. SHE JUST UP AND STOPPED COMING TO SCHOOL. IT WAS LIKE SHE'D RUN AWAY.
I THINK I KNOW HOW SHE MUSTA FELT.
IT'S LIKE SHE JUST WANTED TO ESCAPE, YOU KNOW?

Mm hmm
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND, TAKEDA-KUN
ESCAPE? FROM WHAT?
OH *YEAH*? WHY IS THAT?!
'CAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE EXAMS
HOW COULD YOU *POSSIBLY* UNDERSTAND THAT KINDA *PRESSURE*?
Uhuh. Uhuh.
THAT'S RIGHT... YOU *CAN'T*.

I'D RUN AWAY IF I COULD.
BUT I CAN'T. I'M NOT LIKE KAMIKISHIRO.
NOT ONE OF THEM SEEMED THE LEAST BIT CONCERNED ABOUT HER.
DO YOU PEOPLE THINK TO DO NOTHING WHEN YOU SEE A FELLOW HUMAN CRYING?!
ALL RIGHT, CLASS, LET'S GET STARTED.
IT'S JUST AS BOOGIEPOP SAID.

TKK
TKK
AND THE TEACHER? HE'D LONG SINCE STOPPED GIVING A DAMN
OR SOMEONE EXHAUSTED FROM LATE NIGHTS AT CRAM SCHOOL.
I NEEDED ONLY LOOK TO FIND SOMEONE STUDYING FOR SOMETHING ELSE..
I COULD BARELY MANAGE TO SIT THROUGH CLASS. IT WAS OBVIOUS NO ONE ELSE COULD EITHER.

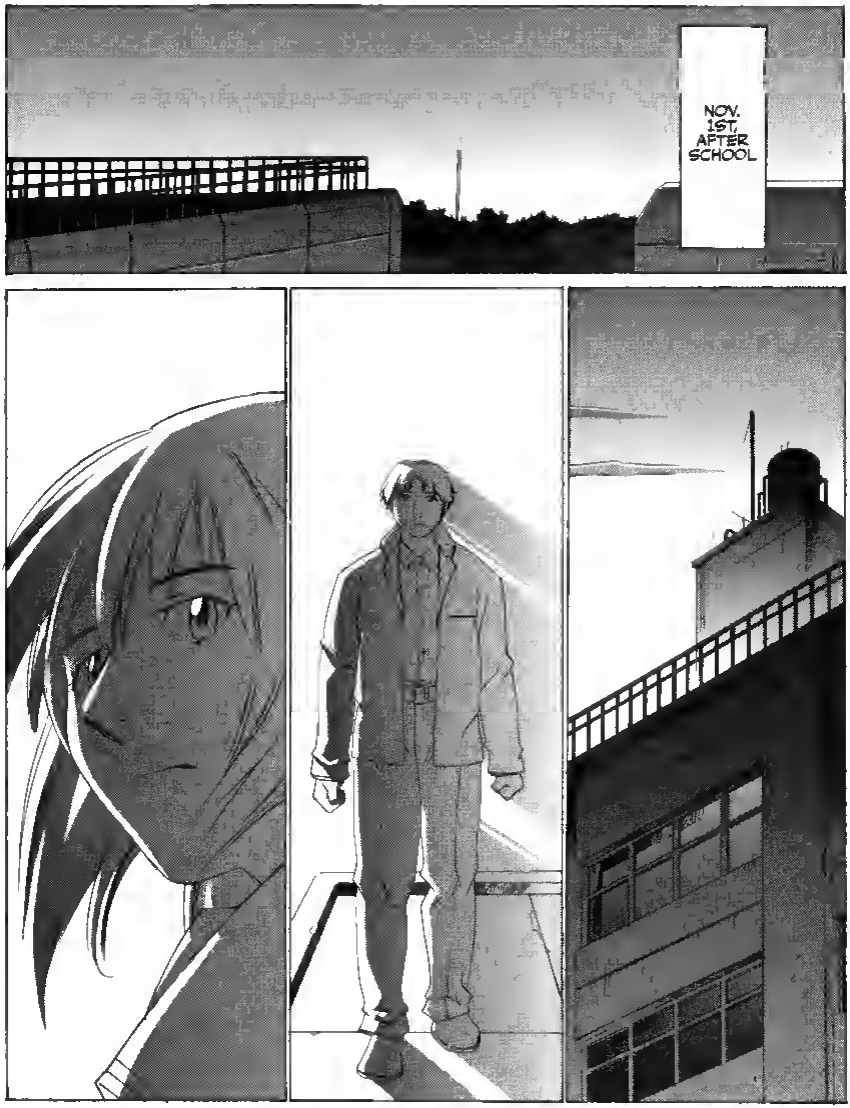

WHY THE HELL WERE WE EVEN HERE?
WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO KAMIKISHIRO?
HAD HER CHEERY EXTERIOR JUST BEEN A LIE?

Life is brief,
young maiden,
fall in love,

before the crimson
bloom fades from
your lips,

before the tides
of passion cool
within your hips,

for those of you
who know no
tomorrow


NOV.
1ST,
AFTER
SCHOOL

.....
NO COSTUME?
HEY.
DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE, SO SHE DIDN'T BRING IT WITH HER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THE DANGER IS OVER
EH?
THAT'S IT, TAKEDA-KUN.
EVERY-THING'S FINISHED.

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I'M SORRY, TAKEDA-KUN...
THIS IS GOODBYE.
Chapter Seven
第7話

W-WAIT, THAT... THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT. THIS IS THE WAY I'M MADE.
WHEN THE DANGER IS GONE, I DISAPPEAR LIKE BUBBLES
BUT THE DANGER! DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE GOING TO SAVE THE WORLD?!
WHY HAVEN'T YOU?! NOTHING'S DIFFERENT!
GRAB
BUT MY JOB IS FINISHED
turn
WHAT YOU MEAN BY SAVE... THAT IS NOT MY JOB.

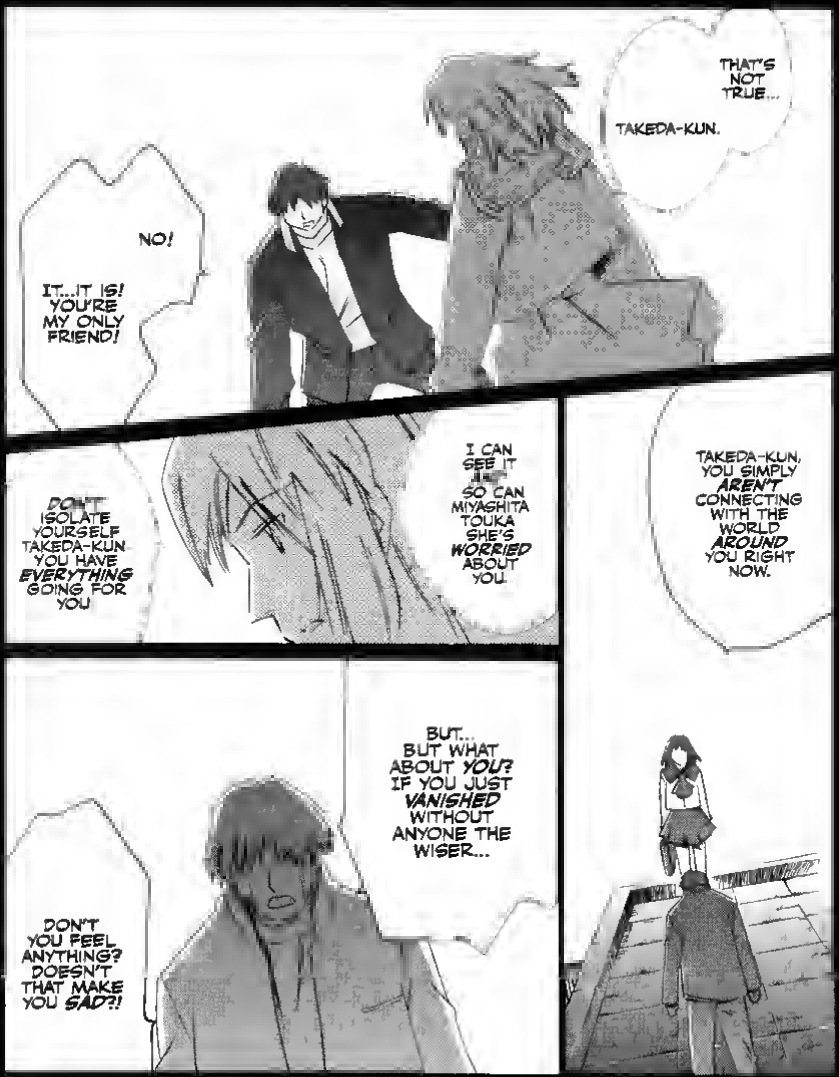
STEP

BUT...
I DID. IT'S DEAD.
BUT YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO FIGHT THE DEVIL THAT LIVES IN THIS SCHOOL!
BUT...
THAT'S...
I'M NOT THE ONE THAT KILLED IT, THOUGH.

THANK YOU...
BOW
TAKEDA-KUN
UNTIL NOW, ALL I'D *EVER* DONE WAS FIGHT. YOU'RE THE FIRST TRUE FRIEND I'VE HAD.
I *ENJOYED* MY TIME WITH YOU
PERHAPS YOU *ONLY* SPENT TIME WITH ME BECAUSE I'M *PART* OF MIYASHITA TOUKA...
BUT I HAD *FUN* I *MEAN* THAT.
I DID.

AT THAT MOMENT, I REALIZED JUST HOW MUCH I LIKED HIM. I'D LIKED HIM SINCE WE MET IN TOWN.
EVERY-THING I EVER WANTED TO SAY BUT COULDN'T... HE COULD SAY IT AT THE DROP OF A HAT. HE'S THE KIND OF FRIEND EVERYONE WISHES THEY HAD.
IT'S NOT BECAUSE HE HAS TOUKA'S FACE. I LIKE HIM FOR WHAT HE SAYS. WHAT HE STANDS FOR.
PLEASE
DON'T... DON'T GO.

EH?
PLEASE, DON'T GO ANYWHERE.
Y-YOU'RE THE ONLY FRIEND I'VE GOT.
I... I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU.


TAKEDA-KUN.
THAT'S NOT TRUE...
NO!
IT...IT IS! YOU'RE MY ONLY FRIEND!
I CAN SEE IT
SO CAN MIYASHITA TOUKA SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
DON'T ISOLATE YOURSELF TAKEDA-KUN. YOU HAVE EVERYTHING GOING FOR YOU
TAKEDA-KUN, YOU SIMPLY AREN'T CONNECTING WITH THE WORLD AROUND YOU RIGHT NOW.
BUT... BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU? IF YOU JUST VANISHED WITHOUT ANYONE THE WISER...
DON'T YOU FEEL ANYTHING? DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU SAD?!

YOU'RE THE *WISER*...
AREN'T YOU?
.....
M-MAYBE... BUT...
I'M AFRAID YOU AND MIYASHITA TOUKA *MUST* GET ON WITH YOUR LIVES, JUST AS I HAVE MY DUTY TO FULFILL. YOU TWO HAVE TO MAKE YOUR *OWN* WORLD.
YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE *BELITTLING* YOURSELF.

BUT WHY CAN'T YOU...?
!
JUST LIKE THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIM, HE'D VANISHED INTO THE WIND.
THERE WAS NO SIGN OF HIM ANYWHERE.

MIYASHITA TOUKA'S MEMORIES ARE AUTOMATICALLY CORRECTED. SHE'S ABLE TO GO ABOUT HER LIFE WITHOUT EVER KNOWING OF MY EXPLOITS."
YOU'RE LATE... TAKEDA-SEMPAI!
EH...?
THAT'S BOOGIEPOP'S LOGIC FOR YOU, BUT I GUESS I'VE GOTTA LEARN TO LIVE WITH IT.
YOU BIG MEANY! YOU TELL ME TO WAIT HERE AND THEN COME UP ALL LATE!
THAT SMILE. THERE'S NO DOUBTING IT. IT'S TOUKA

UH, S-SORRY. I BUMPED INTO A FRIEND.
ON THE ROOF?!
YOU DIDN'T GET INTO A FIGHT WITH A BULLY, DID YOU?!
DOES OUR SCHOOL EVEN HAVE ANY?
HAHAHA
GOT A POINT THERE!
SHE'S LAUGHING.
THAT'S THE TOUKA I REMEMBER. THE ONE I FELL IN LOVE WITH.

OH..
SEMPAI!
UH, Y-YES
HMM
SO YOU'RE MIYAGHITA TOUKA.
HEY, I'M KIRIMA.
NICE TO MEETCHA.

HI!
RUSTLE
UH, BUT YOU'RE--!
COME ON, YOU TWO RUN YOUR CARDS THROUGH! I WANNA GET HOME
GRIN

SO, THAT'S HOW A BIG SHOT DESIGNER THINKS, HUH?
UH, NOT REALLY.
MM...
AT LEAST THEY'RE STILL PRETTY WHEN THEY'RE FALLING.
THESE LEAVES LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL WHEN THEY'RE FALLING, BUT NOW THEY'RE JUST A MESS
HEY, I'M NOT--!
YOU UP AND DECIDED WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO DO AND NOW YOU'RE OFF SNICKERING AT THE REST OF US.
AHHH, I'M JEALOUS
YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT? YOU'RE MR. CONFIDENT NOW.

IT'S PRETTY STRESS-FUL, YOU KNOW?
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO EAT ME ALIVE
BUT I'M OVER IT NOW. FINISHED. FINITO.
.....
AUGH! EWW. THEY'RE ALL DIRTY NOW!
WAIT...
WAS ITHER ANXIETY THAT SUMMONED BOOGIE-POP?
WAS THAT THE SCHOOL DEVIL I KEPT HEARING ABOUT?
DOES THAT MEAN THAT... I DEFEATED IT?

THE "DANGER" HAD PASSED.
Ack! Even my socks?!
SHE HAD TOLD ME OF HER WORRIES THROUGH BOOGIEPOP, AND SHE NO LONGER NEEDED TO BE AFRAID.
I LOOKED AT TOUKA'S PRETTY, CHEERFUL SMILE, AND THOUGHT...
'BOOGIEPOP CAN'T DO THAT.'
SO STUPID!
hee hee hee
IF YOU CAN SMILE, THEN YOU CAN LAUGH. AND THAT'S OUR JOB.
Ah! You're making fun of me, mou!

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Chapter Eight
第8話

バサッ
TAP...
SLP
SLP
チュ…
SMOOCH

ピチャ
ピチャ
SLIP
SLIP
SLIP
SLIP
SLIP
SLIP
THUMP
THP
THP

TUG
LLP
LPP
SLLP
SLRP
HAAH
HAAH
SLRP
SLRP
SLRP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
STMP

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
TWITCH
TWITCH

ピュー
CRRRK
ピュー
CRRR
ピュー
CRRRK
ピュー
CRRRK
CRROOP
ピュー
CRRRK
ピュー
CRRRK
CRRRK
CRRUK
CRRISH

BWOOF
ズズズズズズ
HWWWWWWWH
ゴクリ
GULP
ゴクリ
GULP
HUH

コクン
Gulp
HUFF
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HUFF
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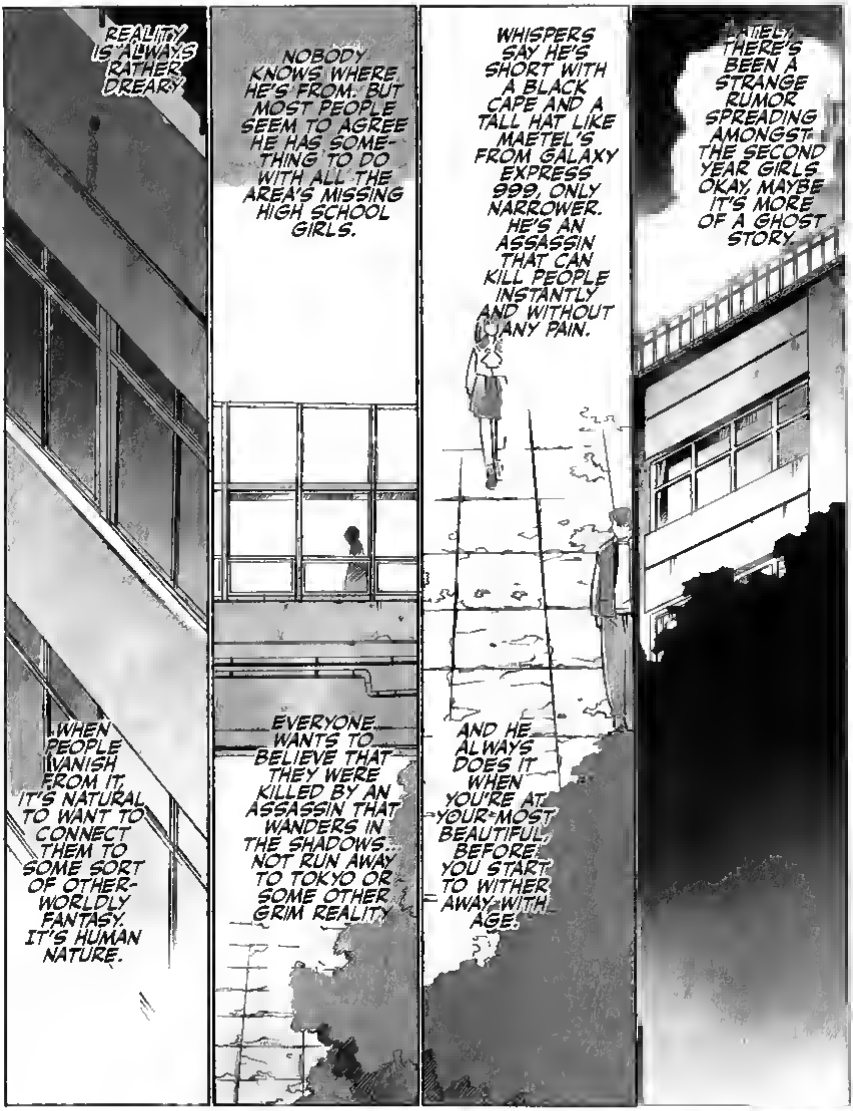
REALITY IS ALWAYS RATHER DREARY.
NOBODY KNOWS WHERE HE'S FROM. BUT MOST PEOPLE SEEM TO AGREE HE HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH ALL THE AREA'S MISSING HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS.
WHISPERS SAY HE'S SHORT WITH A BLACK CAPE AND A TALL HAT LIKE MAETEL'S FROM GALAXY EXPRESS 999, ONLY NARROWER. HE'S AN ASSASSIN THAT CAN KILL PEOPLE INSTANTLY AND WITHOUT ANY PAIN.
LATELY, THERE'S BEEN A STRANGE RUMOR SPREADING AMONGST THE SECOND YEAR GIRLS. OKAY, MAYBE IT'S MORE OF A GHOST STORY.
WHEN PEOPLE VANISH FROM IT, IT'S NATURAL TO WANT TO CONNECT THEM TO SOME SORT OF OTHER-WORLDLY FANTASY. IT'S HUMAN NATURE.
EVERYONE WANTS TO BELIEVE THAT THEY WERE KILLED BY AN ASSASSIN THAT WANDERS IN THE SHADOWS... NOT RUN AWAY TO TOKYO OR SOME OTHER GRIM REALITY.
AND HE ALWAYS DOES IT WHEN YOU'RE AT YOUR MOST BEAUTIFUL, BEFORE YOU START TO WITHER AWAY WITH AGE.

HEY, SUEMA, QUESTION.
OCT. 25TH, LUNCH
WHAT WAS THE ACTUAL CASE THAT INSPIRED THE VILLAGE OF EIGHT GRAVES?
THE TSUYAMA THIRTY
mnch mnch
HUNH, TSUYAMA THIRTY...
WHAT DO YA KNOW.. IT FITS. THANKS!

YEAH, YOU ARE OBSESSED.
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?
DON'T BE STUPID, EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THERE WAS A BOOK OUT ON IT LAST MONTH.
WE DIDN'T READ IT! WHY WOULD WE?
KAZUKO, WHAT YOU KNOW SCARES ME SOMETIMES.
HA HA HA HA
HEY..
...WHAT KIND OF PERSON...
COULD ACTUALLY MURDER SOMEONE?

LIKE THEY'RE OFF IN THEIR OWN LITTLE WORLD AND ARE KINDA STUBBORN WHEN IT COMES TO STUFF
UHHH, WELL, SOMEONE A LITTLE STIFF..
NO, I MEAN, LIKE, WHO IN THIS CLASS SEEMS LIKELY TO?
Oooh, do tell!
WHAT KIND?
ALL KINDS.
KIRIMA NAGI?
SO...

WELL, SHE'S NOT NORMAL. THAT'S FOR SURE.
NOT NORMAL? THE FIRE WITCH IS SIX KINDS OF CRAZY.
WASN'T SHE CAUGHT SMOKING IN THE TEACHER'S REST-ROOM?!
YEP! BUT I HEARD THEY'RE LETTING HER COME BACK IN TWO DAYS!
SPEAKING OF KILLING, I HEAR SHE ACTUALLY IS
YOU KNOW ONE SLIP AND YOU MISS YOUR PERIOD...
MAKES SENSE. GET YOURSELF SUSPENDED BEFORE ANYONE NOTICES AND TAKE CARE OF IT
WHA?
WHAT?! SERIOUSLY?!
THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE AT ALL, BUT THAT NEVER STOPPED THEM FROM TALKING.
I DIDN'T HATE HER LIKE THEY DID. I MEAN, SURE, SHE WAS TROUBLE...
BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY SHE LOOKED AT PEOPLE. IT'S LIKE SHE DIDN'T CARE WHO YOU WERE. SHE NEVER BACKED DOWN.
Blush
I WISH I COULD BE THAT COOL.

YOU THINK THE FIRE WITCH IS BOOGIEPOP?
EWW, NO! BOOGIEPOP'S A BEAUTIFUL BOY, STUPID!
KIND OF A TURN-ON, HUH? WONDER HOW HE KILLS 'EM...
COULD USE A KNIFE OR, OOO, WHAT ABOUT STRANGULATION?!
UGH, NOT THAT AGAIN. THAT'S ALL THESE GIRLS EVER TALK ABOUT.
HEY, SUEMA? WE NEED YOUR EXPERT OPINION OVER HERE!
HYDROCYANIC ACID GAS.
IT'S COLORLESS AND INVISIBLE, BUT VERY POISONOUS, AND IT KILLS YOU INSTANTLY. YOU CAN SPRAY IT ON SOMEONE, AND IT VANISHES WITHOUT LEAVING ANY TRACE EVIDENCE. THE VICTIM'S BODY ISN'T EVEN DIRTY.
EVEN SMELLS LIKE PEACHES.

PEACHES?
I GUESS THAT'S KINDA ROMANTIC.
HUNH...?
UGH, NOTHIIING!
shoo shoo
OKAY, OKAY! JEEZ!!
APPARENTLY THE BOOGIE-POP STORIES WERE BEING KEPT SECRET FROM BOYS.
IT WAS A MYTH ONLY THE GIRLS KNEW.
HEY, WHAT'S UP?
OOPS! I'VE GONE AND DONE IT AGAIN. I SHOULD'VE KNOWN THIS KIND OF KNOWLEDGE WOULD GO IN ONE EAR AND OUT THE OTHER.

WELL, ASIDE FROM KIRIMA-SAN, THAT IS.
FUNNY THING IS, IT SEEMED I WAS THE LAST ONE IN CLASS TO HEAR ABOUT IT.
AND, OF COURSE, YURIHARA-SAN. SHE'S ONE OF THE TOP STUDENTS IN THE WHOLE SCHOOL.
ALWAYS THE LAST TO HEAR ABOUT STUFF. IT'S SO DEPRESSING. IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY WANTED TO HEAR THEIR STUPID STORY ANYWAY, BUT THE LEAST I COULD DO WAS NOD WHENEVER IT SEEMED APPROPRIATE. OH WELL...
Oh, and did I mention he's cute?!
BUT IT'S NO WONDER NO ONE HAD TOLD HER.

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FIVE YEARS AGO, BACK WHEN I WAS IN THE SEVENTH GRADE, I WAS ALMOST KILLED.
MY INTEREST IN CRIMINAL AND ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY ACTUALLY STEMS FROM A VERY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE I HAD.
Chapter Nine
第9話

...BUT AMONG EVIDENCE HE LEFT BEHIND WERE PICTURES OF ME, MY ADDRESS AND A DETAILED LOG OF MY DAILY ACTIVITIES.
THERE WAS A SERIAL KILLER HIDING IN OUR TOWN THAT KILLED HIMSELF JUST AS THE POLICE WERE ABOUT TO CATCH HIM.
THE KILLER TOOK SEXUAL PLEASURE IN KILLING, WHICH IS FREAKY ENOUGH...
I WOULD BE LYING IF I SAID I WASN'T SHOCKED.
I MIGHT'VE BEEN HIS NEXT VICTIM
HAD HE NOT COMMITTED SUICIDE...

THE VERY NEED TO UNDER-STAND HIS MOTIVATION IS WHAT LED ME DOWN THIS MORBID PATH.
I WAS LEFT STUNNED WITH A TRULY UNREAL AND SHAKEN FEELING.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW IT FEELS TO KNOW THE FATE OF YOUR LIFE HAD BEEN IN THE HANDS OF SOME SERIAL KILLER?

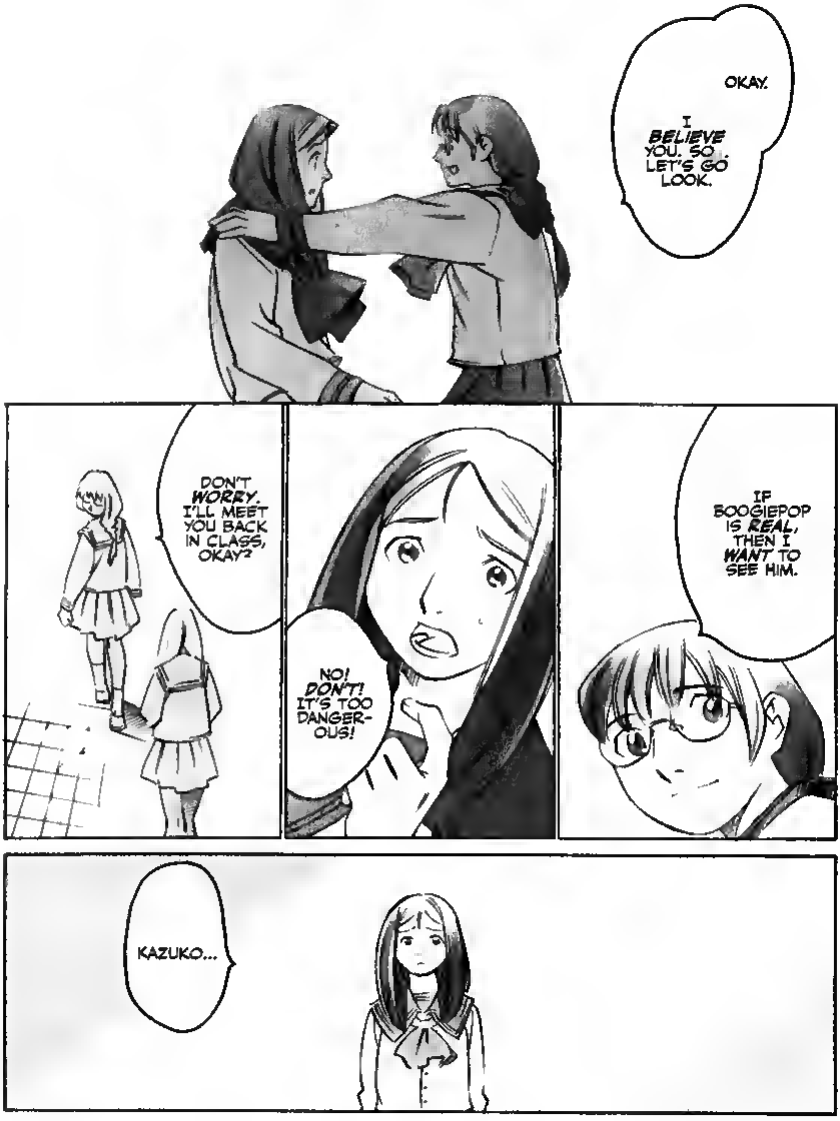
hee
hee
hee
DON'T PLAY IT OFF LIKE THAT. YOU KNOW YOU *HATE* IT TOO.
YEAH, TELL ME ABOUT IT. AT LEAST *EVERYONE* HAS TO TAKE IT, HUH?
UGH, MODERN JAPANESE *AGAIIIN...?*
Attention, 2-C student Miyashita Touka... Attention, 2-C student Miyashita Touka. Please return to the infirmary at once.
キンコン
BIIIING
カンコーン
BOOOONG
Again, 2-C student Miyashita Touka, please return to the infirmary at once
HUNH.
WONDER WHAT'S UP WITH TOUKA.

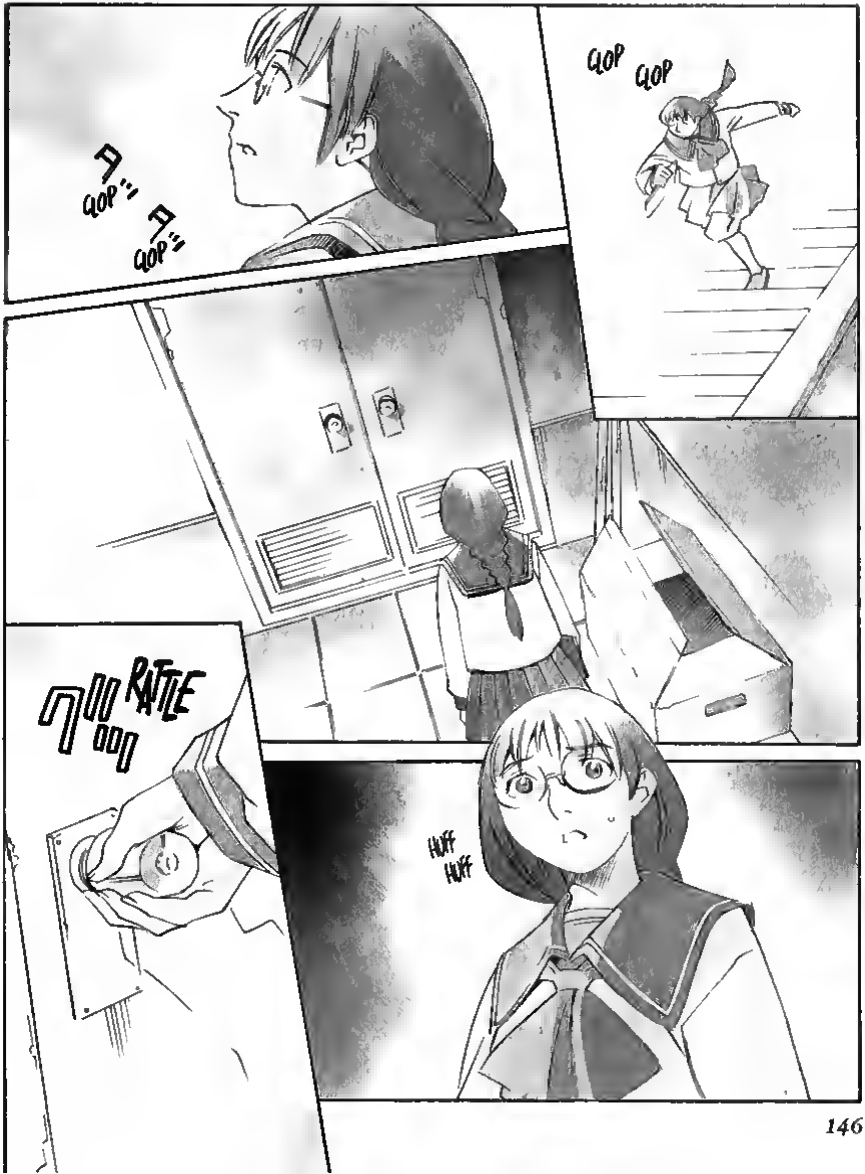
WELLLL...
SHE IS DATING A SENIOR.
YEAH, SHE SAID SHE FELT SICK EARLIER.
SHE WAS IN THE INFIRMARY?
FAKING IT?
SO DON'T YOU GO TELLIN' NIITOKI-SAN.
MAAAYBE. BUT DATING IS AGAINST SCHOOL RULES...
EH?
SHE SKIPPED OUT FOR A DATE?
KNOWING THOSE TWO, THEY'RE PROBABLY ON THE ROOF OR SOMETHIN' RIGHT THIS SECOND.
ME? TELL? NEVER!

TREMBLE
THWACK
WH-WHAT IS IT?
TH-TH-TH-
THERE!
LOOK!!!

EH?
ON THE ROOF!
IT'S BOOGIEPOP!!
WHA? I DON'T SEE--

THERE'S NOTHING THERE.
I...I DON'T THINK SO!
IT HAD A BLACK HAT ON! LIKE A PIPE!
IT WAS THERE! IT WAS!! I SAAAW IT!!!
YOU SURE IT WASN'T SOMEBODY ELSE?
MAYBE, I DUNNO... MIYASHITA-SAN?


OKAY.
I BELIEVE YOU. SO . LET'S GO LOOK.
IF BOOGIEPOP IS REAL, THEN I WANT TO SEE HIM.
NO! DON'T! IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS!
DON'T WORRY. I'LL MEET YOU BACK IN CLASS, OKAY?
KAZUKO...


PAT PAT
PAT PAT
RATTLE
RATTLE
HUFF HUFF

SO CLOSE. BUT I SHOULD'VE KNOWN. THEY'VE KEPT THE ROOF DOOR LOCKED TIGHT EVER SINCE THAT KID JUMPED.
OH WELL, AT LEAST I CAN SAY I GOT SOME EXERCISE.
KAAK
KAAK
OH...
NOTHING THERE. AND I LOOKED EVERYWHERE.
WHA- WHAT HAPPENED?

REALLY.
R-REALLY?
HUNH. I GUESS I MUST'VE IMAGINED IT. .
GRAP. I JUST RE-MEMBERED THERE USED TO BE A FIRE ESCAPE TOWARDS THE BACK OF THE ROOF. IF SOMEONE HAD GONE DOWN THAT, THAT COULD BE WHY I WASN'T ABLE TO SEE THEM.
OH WELL. TOO LATE TO GO CHECK NOW.

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第10話
Chapter Ten

OCT. 26TH
SAY, SUEMA.
WHAT ARE MURDERERS THINKING?
UH, WHY DO YOU ASK?
OH, UH...
NO REASON.
YOU KEEP ASKING ME STUFF LIKE THAT
WHAT'S UP ALREADY?
OH, N-NOTHING. NEVER MIND.
WHAT?
YOU CAN TELL ME.
.....
WELL...

DO YOU THINK... SHE WOULD REAAALLY KILL SOME-ONE?
HAH?
NOD
SHE'S SUS-PENDED NOW, RIGHT?
HUH?
OH, YOU MEAN KIRIMA-SAN?
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF!
BACK WHEN WE WERE EATING LUNCH! YOU SAID IT!
UH, I DID? I MIGHT HAVE...
BUT... EVEN IF I DID, IT WAS ONLY JUST AN EXAMPLE
THAT GIRL IS SCAAARY.
SHE THREATENED THIS GIRL I KNOW.
SHE HASN'T EVER BEEN THE S-S-SAME SINCE.

WHAT'D SHE DO?
THREATEN HER? FOR *MONEY*?
NO...*NOT* MONEY SHE'S *RICH*. YOU KNOW *THAT*.
THEN WHY?

I DON'T *KNOW*! IT'S LIKE SHE GOT SUSPENDED JUST SO SHE *COULD* THREATEN HER!

EVEN SO, IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE SHE INTENTIONALLY GOT HERSELF SUSPENDED. THAT KIND OF THING GOES ON YOUR PERMANENT TRANSCRIPT.
...BUT FOR HAVING AN UNLIT CIGARETTE IN HER LIPS WHILE BEING IN THE TEACHER'S RESTROOM NO LESS!
COME TO THINK OF IT, NAGI HAD ACTUALLY NOT BEEN SUSPENDED FOR SMOKING...
WHAT FOR?
WHY?
EEEE!
SHE'S.
SHE'S GONNA KILL ME
THAT'S GOING A TAD OVER-BOARD

KINOSHITA KYOKO...
RIGHT?
OH MY GOD... KIRIMA NAGI?!

SHOVE
FEE
!
THUUT
SHOOF

WOOOFF
HUUT!
CRUNNKH

W-WAIT! KIRIMA-SAN!
DASH
H-HELP ME!
YOU WANNA CALL FOR *HELP*?! THEN GET READY TO *TALK* TO THE COPS!!
ドキッ
FREEZE!

OH MY GOD!
THWAAAM
KYOKO! KIRIMA-SAN!
HUFF HUFF
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY'S KIRIMA-SAN DRESSED LIKE A HITMAN?! WHAT'S KYOKO GOTTEN INTO?!
I DON'T UNDER-STAND!
!

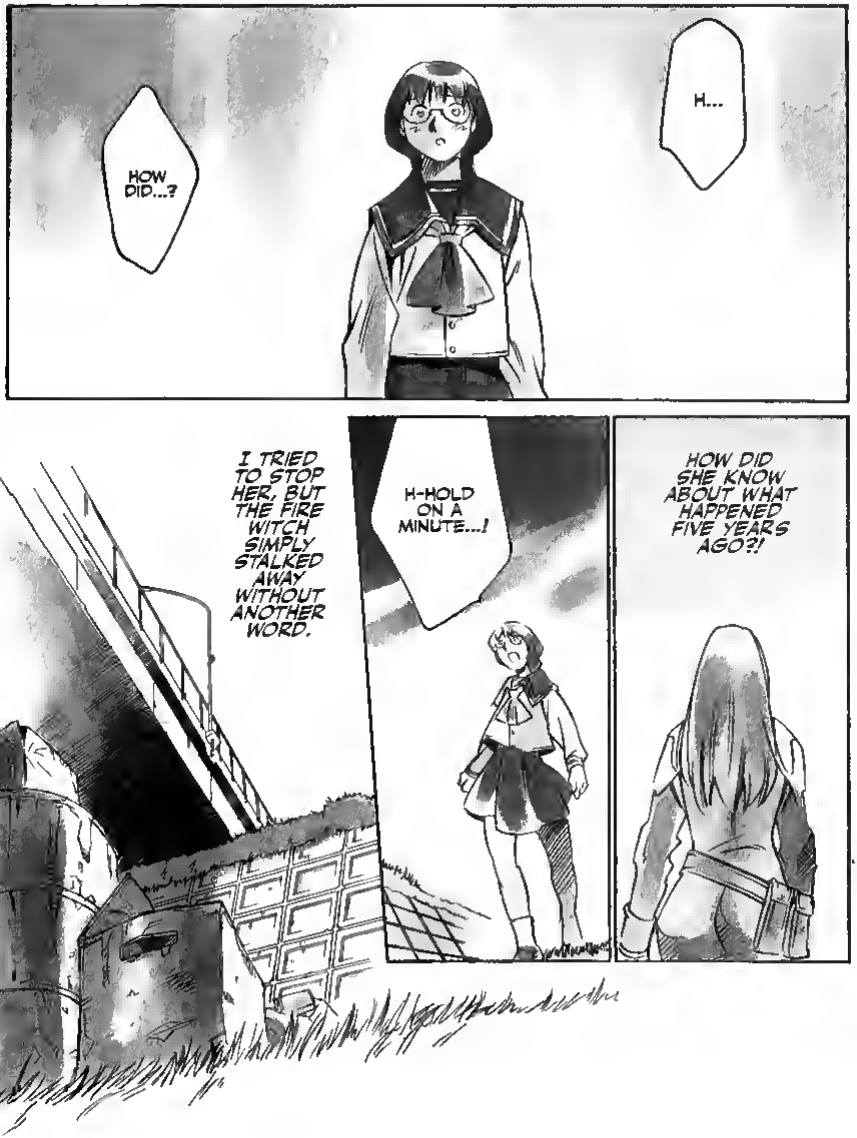
MANTICORE!
WANT ME TO GO AHEAD AND BREAK IT? IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, THEN I'LL DO IT...
OW! OW! OW! LET GO!!!
I'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN, I SWEAR!
NO, DON'T!
STOP IT, KIRIMA-SAN! YOU'RE HURTING HER!!
OOF!

DRUGS?
SO, JUST KEEP *PRETENDING* AND YOU'LL LOSE THAT *ARM!*
IT'S NOT JUST ME. *ECHOES* IS LOOKING FOR YOU *TOO!*
PLEASE... PLEASE DON'T! *PLEASE!!*
I SWEAR! I SWEAR TO GOD I'LL *NEVER* DO DRUGS AGAIN!
KUSATSU AKIKO?
THAT'S ONE OF THE MISSING GIRLS!
I KNOW YOU *KILLED* KUSATSU AKIKO!!
DON'T YOU *LIE* TO ME!

DAMN!
YOU'RE NORMAL!
AAH!!
AUGH!
KRSH KRSH
I DIDN'T! I DIDN'T!! IT WASN'T ME, I SWEAR!!
SHE ONLY GAVE ME THE DRUGS!
KYOKO!
DON'T WORRY. I STOPPED BEFORE THE JOINT WAS DESTROYED.
IT'LL HURT LIKE HELL FOR A FEW DAYS BUT YOU'LL BE FINE.

YOU SHOULD BE ASKING KINOSHITA THAT, SUEMA SAN.
WHY'D YOU DO THIS?!
UNH...
BUT THIS IS GOING TOO FAR!
AT LEAST IT'S BETTER THAN GETTING ARRESTED
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, KINOSHITA?

YOU'LL KNOW BETTER THAN TO DO STUPID SHIT JUST BECAUSE YOUR FRIENDS DO IT.
I HOPE YOU LEARN FROM THIS. 'CAUSE NEXT TIME...
.....
WAIT!
DON'T LEAVE!!
SUEMA-SAN, MAYBE IT'S TIME TO LET GO OF WHAT HAPPENED FIVE YEARS AGO. GET TOO HUNG UP ON SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
AND IT'LL COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU.


HOW DID...?
H...
I TRIED TO STOP HER, BUT THE FIRE WITCH SIMPLY STALKED AWAY WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD.
H-HOLD ON A MINUTE...!
HOW DID SHE KNOW ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED FIVE YEARS AGO?!

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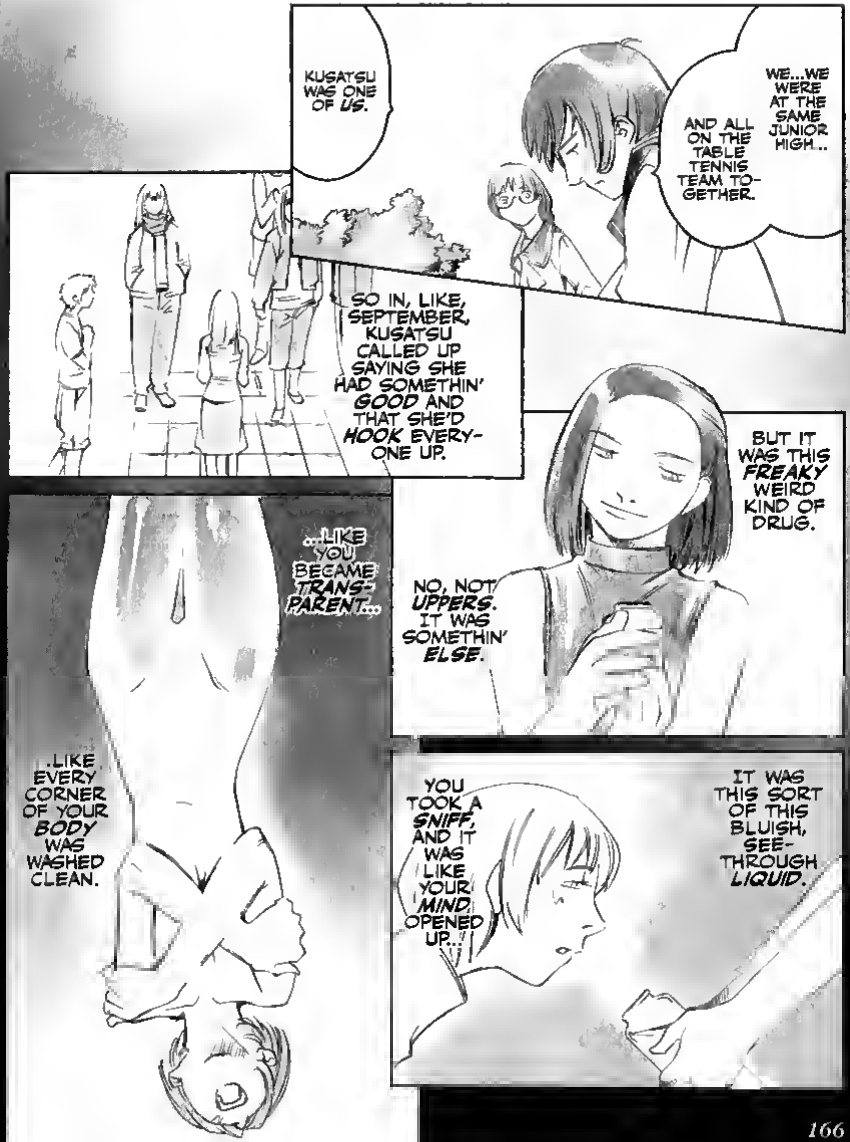
第11話
Chapter Eleven


WE...WE WERE AT THE SAME JUNIOR HIGH...
AND ALL ON THE TABLE TENNIS TEAM TOGETHER.
KUSATSU WAS ONE OF *US*.
SO IN, LIKE, SEPTEMBER, KUSATSU CALLED UP SAYING SHE HAD SOMETHIN' *GOOD* AND THAT SHE'D *HOOK* EVERYONE UP.
BUT IT WAS THIS *FREAKY* WEIRD KIND OF DRUG.
NO, NOT *UPPERS*. IT WAS SOMETHIN' *ELSE*.
IT WAS THIS SORT OF THIS BLUISH, SEE-THROUGH *LIQUID*.
YOU TOOK A *SNIFF*, AND IT WAS LIKE YOUR *MIND* OPENED UP...
...LIKE YOU BECAME *TRANSPARENT*...
...LIKE EVERY CORNER OF YOUR *BODY* WAS WASHED CLEAN.

YEAH, I KNOW PROBABLY BULLSHIT.
KUSATSU DIDN'T TELL US MUCH JUST THAT SOME PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY HAD CREATED IT AS A TEST PRODUCT.
LIKE GLUE OR SOMETHING?
GLUE? UH, NO.
I DUNNO, IT DIDN'T HAVE THAT STRONG A SMELL.
FREE?
BUT, HEY, IT WAS FREE, SO WE ALL TRIED SOME...
NO, I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY WENT! THEY DIDN'T TELL ANYONE. THEY JUST, YOU KNOW, VANISHED!
BUT A LITTLE WHILE LATER, PEOPLE FROM OUR GROUP STARTED RUNNING AWAY.
RIGHT, SHE NEVER CHARGED US NOTHIN'.
WHICH IS WEIRD NOW, BECAUSE SHE'S NOT EXACTLY A GENEROUS PERSON, YOU KNOW?

WHEN DID THIS ALL START?
ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO...
RIGHT AFTER SHE GOT SUSPENDED.
SHE MUSTVE PULLED THAT BATH-ROOM STUNT... JUST TO TRACK US DOWN!
AND THEN... KUSATSU VANISHED TOO.
SO, THE REST OF US WERE STARTING TO WONDER IF IT HAD SOMETHIN' TO DO WITH THE DRUGS.
LIKE, WHAT IF WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO KNOW ABOUT IT...
AND WHOEVER SHE GOT IT FROM WAS TAKING US OUT!
THAT'S WHEN KIRIMA NAGI SHOWED UP!
SOMEHOW SHE'D FOUND OUT ABOUT THE DRUGS, AND STARTED ATTACKING EACH OF US ONE AFTER THE OTHER. I...I WAS THE LAST ONE.

PLEASE, DON'T TELL ANYONE, SUEMA! KEEP IT SECRET!
I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD YOU...
BUT I HAD TO. I HAD TO TELL SOMEONE!

KIRIMA NAGI
HMM... IT'S CLOSE ENOUGH TO WALK.
OKAY, LET'S DO IT!
KYOKO WAS RUNNING AWAY AS FAST AS SHE COULD. I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
HUFF HUFF
BUT WHY DID I HAVE TO MEET HER... AND NOW?
I'M CLEARLY OUT OF MY MIND!
BUT HERE I AM RUNNING STRAIGHT TOWARDS THE FIRE WITCH'S HOUSE!

SHE JUST DID WHATEVER THE OTHER COOL GIRLS TOLD HER.
SHE WASN'T EVEN A VICTIM. JUST IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.
I MEAN, IT SOUNDED LIKE SHE HADN'T BEEN ONE OF THE RINGLEADERS. SHE WAS JUST A THIRD WHEEL.
KYOKO'S FRAGMENTED STORY SUGGESTED SHE HAD ONLY SEEN A SMALL PART OF WHAT WAS REALLY GOING ON.

AND SHE KNEW ABOUT MY PAST.
BUT HOW?
NAGI HAD SAID KUSATSU AKIKO HAD BEEN KILLED...
HOW DID SHE KNOW THAT?

IF THERE WAS DANGER... I WANTED TO SEE IT!
MY OWN WILL PLAYED NO PART IN THE MATTER.
FIVE YEARS AGO, STUFF HAD HAPPENED WITHOUT ME EVER KNOWING.
I ONLY FOUND OUT ONCE IT WAS ALL OVER.
WHO CARES IF HE DOESN'T EXIST?
THAT'S WHY I HAD CHASED AFTER BOOGIEPOP.
IF KIRIMA NAGI REALLY IS A WITCH...
THEN I'M GONNA FIND OUT!
NO MORE BLISSFUL IGNORANCE FOR ME!
I JUST WANTED TO CONFRONT SOMETHING.

.....
UM...
THAT'S... NOT AN APARTMENT.
PING-PONG
badump badump
3 TANIGUCHI 8
TANIGUCHI
Who is it?

UM, IS, UH...IS KIRIMA-SAN IN?
Nagi has friends? Just a moment!
COME ON IN!
WAIT, WHERE'S THE RUNDOWN APARTMENT?!
THE SKULLS ON THE FENCE! KIRIMA-SAN CAN'T LIVE HERE!! IT'S TOO NORMAL!!
NAGI'S NOT HOME YET, BUT YOU CAN JUST COME IN AND CHILL!
O-OH, UM--
JUST MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE SHE'LL BE BACK SOON ENOUGH

Mmm. Hot is good!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THE INSIDE'S NORMAL TOO!
HERE YA GO.
UH... TH-THANKS.
GOSH! I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER ACTUALLY MET A FRIEND OF NAGI'S BEFORE.
AND Y-YOU ARE...?
ME? I'M HER BROTHER.
C-COME AGAIN?
I...I'D ALWAYS HEARD KIRIMA-SAN LIVED ALONE.

I'M BACK!
UH, IN HERE, NAGI!
So does everyone else live ?
KIRIMA-SAN HAD PARENTS TOO? BUT WHY WAS THEIR NAME TANIGUCHI?
YOUR PARENTS ..?
YEAH, I GOT HERE ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO. USED TO LIVE ABOARD WITH MY PARENTS.
CAME BACK 'CAUSE I'VE GOT HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMS.
DON'T TELL ME... YOU BROUGHT ANOTHER GIRL HOME?
THOP THOP
HEY, THIS CUTIE'S YOURS!
SHE'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

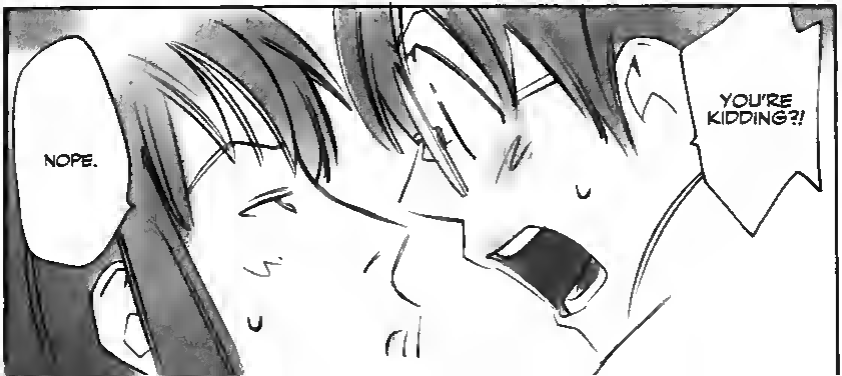
OH...
IT'S YOU.
LET'S GO UP-STAIRS.

Is this really a girl's room?
UM ..
THANKS.
SIT.

EVERYONE THINKS I LIVE ALONE.
BY MAGAKI.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A BROTHER.
UM, YEAH.
GONNA GROW UP TO BE A REAL DON JUAN.
GOOD KID, BUT HE'S TOO MUCH OF A SWEET TALKER.
Sad, huh?
HE'S MY MOM'S SECOND HUSBAND'S SON FROM SOME PREVIOUS MARRIAGE
HE'S NOT MY BROTHER. AND WE'RE NOT RELATED
RIGHT.
MY MOM'S HUSBAND'S NAME. I KEPT THE OLD ONE
SO...
THAT'S WHY HIS NAME'S...?
HM?
SURPRISED?

I THOUGHT YOU'D KNOW
KIRIMA SEIICHI. YOU KNOW, WROTE A LOT OF BOOKS?
WHY? WHO'S YOUR DAD?
HMM. WHY?
'CAUSE I GOT A FATHER COMPLEX.

SHAKE!! !!SHAKE
THE KIRIMA SEIICHI? WROTE THE SCREAM INSIDE - MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DISORDER, AND VS IMAGINATOR AND ALL THOSE OTHERS?!
EHHHH?!


NOPE.
YOU'RE KIDDING?!

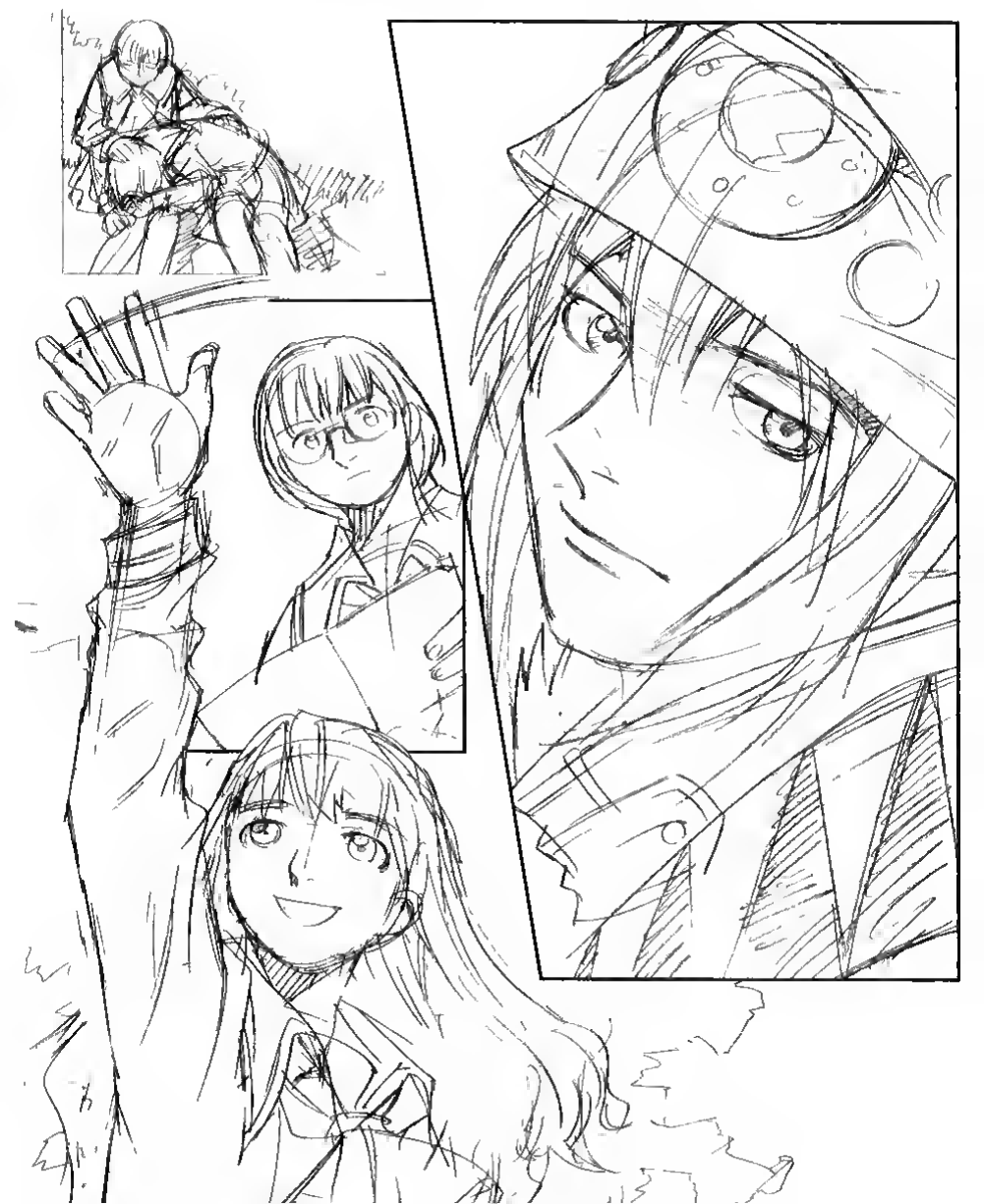
ブギーポップは笑わない

Boogiepop Doesn't Laugh

メイキングラフ集

SKETCH BOOK

Vol.1



To be continued.

In Volume 2...

EVERYTHING GOES STRAIGHT TO HELL

The extra-sized conclusion of *Boogiepop Doesn't Laugh* coming **July 2006**

Don't you dare miss it!

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Seven Seas' COMMITMENT TO TRANSLATION AUTHENTICITY

JAPANESE NAME ORDER

To ensure maximum authenticity in Seven Seas' translation of *Boogiepop Doesn't Laugh*, all character names have been kept in their original Japanese name order with family name first and given name second.

For copyright reasons, the names of *Boogiepop* creator Kouhei Kadono and illustrator Kouji Ogata appear in standard English name order.

HONORIFICS

In addition to preserving the original Japanese name order, Seven Seas is committed to ensuring that honorifics—polite speech that indicates a person's status or relationship towards another individual—are retained within this book. Politeness is an integral facet of Japanese culture and we believe that maintaining honorifics in our translations helps bring out the same character nuances as seen in the original work.

The following are some of the more common honorifics you may come across while reading this and other books:

-san – The most common of all honorifics, it is an all-purpose suffix that can be used in any situation where politeness is expected. Generally seen as the equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs., etc.

-sama – This suffix is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect upon an individual.

-dono – Stemming from the word "tono," meaning "lord," "-dono" signifies an even higher level than "-sama," and confers the utmost respect.

-kun – This suffix is commonly used at the end of boys' names to express either familiarity or endearment. It can also be used when addressing someone younger than oneself or of a lower status.

-chan – Another common honorific. This suffix is mainly used to express endearment towards girls, but can also be used when referring to little boys or even pets. Couples are also known to use the term amongst each other to convey a sense of cuteness and intimacy.

Sempai – This title is used towards one's senior or "superior" in a particular group or organization. "Sempai" is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to upperclassmen as "sempai," though it is also commonly said by employees when addressing fellow employees who hold seniority in the workplace.

Kouhai – This is the exact opposite of "sempai," and is used to refer to underclassmen in school, junior employees at the workplace, etc.

Sensei – Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

About the Author

Born in 1968, Kouhei Kadono grew up uncertain about his direction in life. He spent a considerable portion of his early years frittering away his youth before somehow ending up writing novels.

In 1997, Kadono-sensei's first *Boogiepop* novel, *Boogiepop and Others*, took First Place in the Media Works' Dengeki Game Novel Contest. Early the following year, the novel was released to widespread acclaim and ignited the Japanese "light novel" (young adult) trend. Since that time, Kadono-sensei has written thirteen *Boogiepop* novels and several related works such as the *Beat's Discipline* short story collections and the two *Boogiepop* manga series entitled *Boogiepop Doesn't Laugh* and *Boogiepop Dual*. In its entirety, the *Boogiepop* series has seen over two million copies in print and spawned a live action movie and a hit anime series.

In addition to the *Boogiepop* universe, Kadono-sensei's body of literary work includes a wide array of fantasy and mystery novels such as the *Jiken*, *Soul Drop*, *Limited World* and *Night Watch* series.

About the Illustrator

Born in 1970, a native of Osaka, Koun Ogata spent his early twenties struggling to get enough credits to graduate from Osaka Design School. In late 1996, Ogata-sensei was commissioned by Media Works to illustrate the first *Boogiepop* novel, *Boogiepop and Others*.

At the time, Ogata-sensei was simply a rising star with a distinctive, eye-catching art style, but he gradually was able to further hone his artistic skills with each subsequent work. His watercolor-style painting seen in the two-volume *Boogiepop Doesn't Laugh* manga series was a particularly high point of his early career.

In addition to providing illustrations for novels and manga, Ogata-sensei has been involved with supplying character designs for anime productions including *Boogiepop Phantom*, *Spirit* and *Gin-iro no kami no Agito*.

In his free time he enjoys motorcycles, tennis, and remote controlled models.

BOOGIEPOP
The Ultimate Guide PART 1

Boogiepop: a haunting series that has spawned legions of fans across the planet. For those of you who've never seen the anime or the movie, welcome to the first installment of the ultimate guide covering all things *Boogiepop*!

by Lesley Smith

Boogiepop and Others

In 1997, a Japanese 'light [illegible] adult) novel' about a phantasmal crime fighter-cum-*shinigami* entitled *Boogiepop and Others* won the MediaWorks' Dengeki Game Novel Contest and has, since then, gained a vast fan base across the globe, inspiring twelve more novels, two manga series, various short stories, an anime series and a live-action movie.

Told in a non-linear fashion through the eyes of five students at Shinyo Academy Kouhei Kadono's *Boogiepop and Others* focuses on the object of an urban legend whispered among the female students of a *shinigami* (spirit of death) known as Boogiepop.

The legend says Boogiepop is responsible for the rash of disappearances from amongst the Academy's student body, but that's not the whole truth. Another more malevolent being is also active in the school, the Manticore, a deadly shape shifter with a taste for humans currently adopting the form of Shinyo Academy student Yunhara Minako.

Also roaming the city is Echoes, a dishevelled man in rags who is--like his mythological namesake--cursed to mimic only the words he hears spoken by others. It is by crossing paths with this mysterious figure, also seeking to destroy Manticore, that *Boogiepop and Others*' first narrator, Takeda Keiji, encounters the *shinigami* of Shinyo Academy lore.

Dressed in a dark cloak and a matching hat, Boogiepop is real and none other than Keiji's girlfriend, Miyashita Touka. Except Touka is not just dressing up; she is 'currently' Boogiepop, a male personality separate from Touka's own that rises up when *he* detects trouble. Five years prior, Boogiepop appeared to deal with a serial killer and has now returned to put a stop to Manticore and its lover/minion Saotome Masami.

Like many Japanese books, *Boogiepop and Others* also came with some illustrated pages, drawn by Kouji Ogata. These included colored character shots for the main narrators and antagonists in the novel as well as a memorable quote for each. The novel also contained several single and double-page black and white spreads illustrating specific scenes from the book. Ogata's character designs also inspired a series of fully-animated commercials produced by MediaWorks to promote *Boogiepop and Others* (the subbed thirty second version of which can be found on Gomanga.com) as well as other books in the series.

Novel Soundtrack

The *Music Inspired by Boogiepop and Others* soundtrack was composed by Yuki Kajiura (who created the music for *.hack//SIGN* and *Tsubasa Chronicle*) and comprises of eleven tracks which serve as image songs for the novel. This soundtrack serves to enhance the reader's experience and is a common occurrence in Japan.

Containing a variety of styles, from piano melodies to techno and reworked classical music, the CD is an excellent addition to the *Boogiepop* universe that serves to further set the mood of the series. However, one of the most important aspects of this CD's release in the US was not the music but the fact that the liner notes contained Ogata's illustrations from *Boogiepop and Others* along with one-line quotations from the novel.

The Imaginator

Later in 1998, the second novel was published, complete with a bizarre title that would become a staple of the series. Titled *Boogiepop Returns VS Imaginator*, the novel was published in two parts. *Sign* (published by Seven Seas under the title *Boogiepop Returns*) and *Parade* (*Boogiepop VS Imaginator*) and illustrated once again by Ogata.

Boogiepop Returns sees the introduction of the mysterious Towa Organization, which appears in the rest of the series as well as *Boogiepop Phantom*. Shrouded in mystery, this organization is the stuff of conspiracy theorists' nightmares. Its mission: to hunt down psychics and anyone who shows signs of being further along the evolutionary path. It is also thought to have had something to do with Manticore and Echoes as well as the latest villain, who is known simply by the codename Spooky E.

The story also centers on the school teacher Asukai Jin, who can see a person's flaws in the shape of a plant on their chest, and becomes a pawn of the Imaginator, who wants to recreate the world in his image. In addition to this, *Boogiepop Returns* is also a tale of the doomed love affair between Aya, a low-level Towa minion, and Masaki, the step-brother of Kinma Nagi, from *Boogiepop and Others*.

Boogiepop Doesn't Laugh

The success of the novel and movie led to not one but two manga series *Boogiepop Doesn't Laugh* and *Boogiepop Dual Boogiepop Doesn't Laugh* (also known as *Boogiepop we Warawanai*) originally ran in the monthly magazine *Dengeki Animation* (produced by MediaWorks) between October 1999 and May 2001 before being published as a two volume manga series later that year

Written by Kadono and illustrated by Ogata, *Boogiepop Doesn't Laugh* essentially retold the events of the first novel in manga form However, it also included scenes that were not featured in either the novel or the movie, such as an evening of group dating which ends as a sexual encounter between Kamikishiro Naoko and Kimura Akio in one of Japan's numerous love hotels The look of the manga is also quite unique with soft tones being used for the first fourth of the series and a wispy water-colored look for the rest, rather than the dark, gothic tones commonly seen in many supernatural series This all serves to significantly enhance the creepiness factor even further

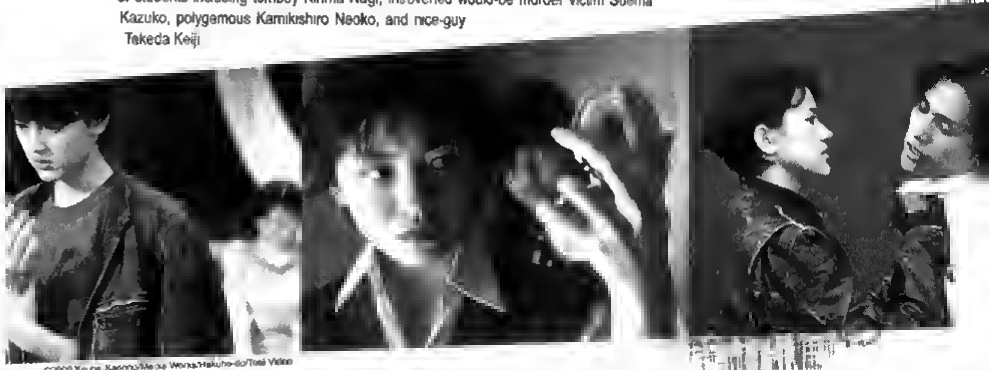
Of course, this is only the beginning of the *Boogiepop* franchise Join us in *Boogiepop Doesn't Laugh* Vol 2 for part 2 of "Boogiepop The Ultimate Guide" where we will examine *Boogiepop Phantom*

BOOGIEPOP
The Ultimate Guide PART 1

Live-Action Movie

Y2K also heralded a new addition to the *Boogiepop* franchise a live action movie directed by Kaneda Ryu entitled *Boogiepop and Others* Based on the original novel and the *Boogiepop Doesn't Laugh* manga the movie was given an American release by The Right Stuf International (who also released *Boogiepop Phantom* and the accompanying soundtrack)

Following the same method of non-linear storytelling featured in the novel the movie opens with the Manticore devouring Yurihara Minako in a scene reminiscent of an erotic movie Comprised of vignette-like scenes it then jumps from the various perspectives of students including tomboy Kirima Nagi, introverted would-be murder victim Suema Kazuko, polygamous Kamikishiro Naoko, and nice-guy Takeda Keiji



The film also takes pains to explain Manticore and Echoes' back-story, which was left intentionally vague in the novel Through a telepathic link with Kamikishiro Naoko Echoes explains that the Manticore is a failed experiment created when scientists attempted to clone him After killing the scientists Manticore went on the run, blending into human society by stealing the forms of others

Various new scenes are also added or expanded upon, such as Nagi--one of the strongest characters in the film--throwing a chair through a first story window *Boogiepop and Others* also concentrates on exploring the drug that is produced from the Manticore's tears The drug has not only become a popular stimulant amongst the students of Shinyo Academy, but its Rohypnol-like qualities also allow Saotome to lure girls for the man-eater to consume

Finally Boogiepop's role in the film is rather incidental and tinged with *deus ex machina*, with the Shinyo students doing all the work and Boogiepop striking the final blow Regardless the movie is entertaining and a great place for fans to start their obsession with Shinyo Academy's resident *shinigami*

Boogiepop doesn't laugh

VOLUME 1 of 2

story by Kouhei Kadono art by Kouji Ogata

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BOOGIEPOP DOESN'T LAUGH Vol 1
BOOGIEPOP WA WARAWANAI Vol 1
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First published in 2001 by Media Works Inc., Tokyo, Japan
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ISBN: 1-933164-18-2

Printed in Canada

First printing: March, 2006

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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